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The Nebraska Bird Review

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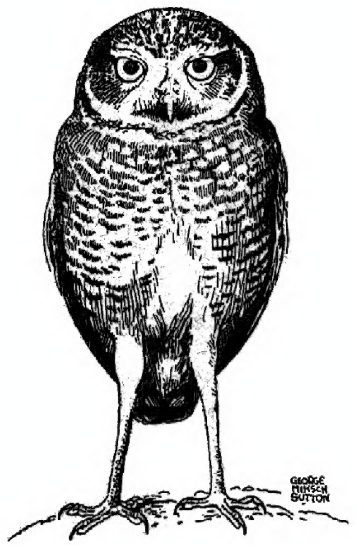
Volume 88 June 2020 Number 2



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SPRING FIELD REPORT, March-May 2020

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INTRODUCTION

First, a reminder that all reports compiled for this Spring Seasonal Report are evaluated against current knowledge as presented in Birds of Nebraska- Online ("BONO"; https://birds.outdoornebraska.gov/). If you have records that are not in BONO, please let me know at silcock@rosssilcock.com. As the number of observers increases, there are more sightings that push the boundaries of our current knowledge, and so it is becoming more important for observers to routinely use a camera and/or recording device to document such sightings. A perfect example is this year's first state record Great Kiskadee, which was photographed by a rural non-birder homeowner, stayed for a few minutes, and was never seen again. Recording is simple using smart phones with apps such as Voice Recorder; recordings can easily be emailed from your phone to your computer and transferred into an eBird checklist which ultimately produces extremely useful checklist spectrograms. I keep harping on the lack of documentation of Common Raven in the state; there are several recent reports that it seems could easily have been documented either by photo or recording. Take a look at the list of documented rarities below for further evidence of the importance of carrying a camera.

Reading the Spring 2019 Seasonal Report Introduction, I was tempted to simply copy it for 2020; the seasons were quite similar in terms of trends, dates, and numbers as well as the large number of observers: 164 as compared to 2019's 172, the vast majority "eBirders".

Although there were numerous early arrival dates, most were in the range of historically earliest expected dates; notable, however, was a lone record-early White-rumped Sandpiper, nicely photographed. Record late by a month was a juvenile Red-tailed (Harlan's) Hawk, also confirmed by photo. Perhaps most prominent this spring were the large numbers of several species. Most eye-popping were record spring totals of 22 Glossy Ibises, 11 Yellow-bellied Flycatchers, 14 Veeries, including five in the Panhandle, 48 Gray-cheeked Thrushes, 20 Bay-breasted Warblers, not long ago a rare bird in spring, 45 Golden-winged Warblers and 27 Canada Warblers, both of which were about twice the previous best spring totals. Impressive single observer/single-day counts were the 14 Iceland (Thayer's) Gulls, 9 Lesser Black-backed Gulls, 81 Great Egrets, 200 Turkey Vultures, and 25 each of Eastern Wood-Pewees and Pygmy Nuthatches.

In contrast, reports included notable absences and low numbers for Gray Partridge, one Black-billed Cuckoo, no Little Blue Heron, one report of the enigmatic Pinyon Jay, no Blue-winged Warbler, and one Cerulean Warbler.

A notable phenomenon in recent years is the increasing number of spring reports for species traditionally expected mostly in fall. Prominent were reports of Surf and White-winged Scoters, the 12th-16th Broad-tailed Hummingbirds at two notable Panhandle feeder operations in Dawes and Scotts Bluff Cos, 7th Red-naped Sapsucker, and 7th and 8th Hammond's Flycatcher.

Nesting reports of significance were the 7th for White-winged Dove, a range-extending American Woodcock nesting at Calamus Reservoir in Garfield Co, and another successful brood of Northern Saw-whet Owls in the Wildcat Hills of Scotts Bluff Co.

Distributional sightings of interest were northerly Pileated Woodpecker, westerly Broad-winged Hawk, Barred Owl, White-eyed Vireo, and Mourning Warbler, and easterly Say's Phoebe, Lesser Goldfinch, Yellow-breasted Chat, Bullock's Oriole, and 11 Lazuli Buntings. Perhaps only of interest to Piping Plover aficionados were a series of sightings of marked individuals documenting the previously unappreciated dispersal abilities of this adaptable species.

More in the curiosity category than the rarity category were reports of four hybrid or unusual waterfowl: the expected Blue-winged x Cinnamon Teal, and the rare Northern Shoveler x Gadwall, "Storm" Wigeon, and Bufflehead x Common Goldeneye. A head-scratcher for us ordinary birders was a documented report of a Downy x Hairy Woodpecker in Scotts Bluff Co.

"Real" rarities were topped of course by two new state records, both "one-day wonders" which fortunately were documented by camera-ready observers. A Great Kiskadee in Gage Co was mentioned above, and a Black Phoebe was photographed by two people the same day in Scotts Bluff Co as a result of timely communication by the finder. The state's second record of Swainson's (Russet-backed) Thrush, subspecies *Catharus ustulatus ustulatus*, was documented by camera. Serious rarities were the 4th Nebraska Anna's Hummingbird, documented by a motion-triggered camera, and Nebraska's 6th Harris's Hawk, again documented by camera by an alert member of the public. Photos of the latter belied the seemingly logical assumption it was the same bird that was photographed nearby last fall: they were in fact different individuals.

ABBREVIATIONS

BOL: Branched Oak SRA, Lancaster Co
Co(s): County (ies)
CLNWR: Crescent Lake NWR, Garden Co
CR: Calamus Reservoir, Loup/Garfield Cos
CSP: Chadron SP, Dawes Co
FF: Fontenelle Forest, Sarpy Co
HCR: Harlan County Reservoir, Harlan Co
ICSP: Indian Cave SP, Nemaha and Richardson Cos
LM: Lake McConaughy, Keith Co

LSWNP: Lincoln Saline Wetlands Nature Park, Lincoln, Lancaster Co
m.ob.: many observers
MWCW: Marsh Wren Community Wetlands, Lincoln, Lancaster Co
NNF: Nebraska National Forest
NWR: National Wildlife Refuge
OPPD: Omaha Public Power District, Omaha, Douglas Co
OR: Oliver Reservoir, Kimball Co
PL: Pawnee Lake, Lancaster Co
PP: Pioneers Park, Lincoln, Lancaster Co
PRSP: Platte River SP, Cass Co
PSP: Ponca SP, Dixon Co
RA: Recreation Area
RWB: Rainwater Basin, including several south-central and southeastern playa basins
SCP: Audubon Spring Creek Prairie, Lancaster Co
SHP: State Historical Park
SP: State Park
SRA: State Recreation Area
UNL: University of Nebraska - Lincoln, Lancaster Co
VNWR: Valentine NWR, Cherry Co
WGP: Walnut Grove Park, Omaha, Douglas Co
WHNC: Wildcat Hills NC, Scotts Bluff Co
WMA: (State) Wildlife Management Area
WP: Wilderness Park, Lincoln, Lancaster Co
WPA: (Federal) Waterfowl Production Area
WTP: Water Treatment Plant

OBSERVERS

Will Anderson (WA)
Gautam Apte (GA)
Noah Arthur (NA)
Erik Atwell (EA)
Wendy Becker (WB)
Garrett Behrends (GB)
Eric Bents (EBe)
Shannon Blake (SBl)
Scott Bradley (SBd)
Stephen Brenner (SBr)
Susan Broderick (SBk)
Ed Brogie (EBr)
Lee Brogie (LBr)
Mark Brogie (MB)
Barbara Brown (BB)
Charles Brown (CB)
Bill & Janis Buckingham (B&JB)
Tim Buskirk (TB)
Scott Buss (SB)
Daniel Casey (DCa)
Colleen Childers (CCh)
Dan & Jamalee Clark (D&JC)
Isaiah Clark (IC)
Virginia Clark (VC)
Mary Clausen (MC)
James Codding (JCd)
John J. Conrad (JJC)
Jen Corman (JCo)
Kelly & Jen Corman (K&JC)
Colin Croft (CCf)
Charlotte Croshaw (CCr)
David Cunningham (DC)
Olivia DaRugna (OD)
Jeff Dawson (JD)
Kathy DeLara (KD)
Taylor Dixon (TD)

James E. Ducey (JED)
Paul Dunbar (PD)
Kathy Mihm Dunning (KMD)
Boni Edwards (BE)
Larry Einemann (LE)
Andrew Elgin (AE)
Linda Ferring (LF)
William Flack (WF)
Rita Flohr (RF)
Chelsea Forehead (CF)
Andrew Furman (AF)
Tom Gannon (TG)
Ellen Gartner (EG)
Kandace Glanville (KGl)
Ian Godwin (IG)
Mackenzie Goldthwait (MG)
Katy Goobie (KG)
Kimberly Hill Grundman (KHG)
Lynette Hahne (LH)
John W. Hall (JWH)
Rachel Hall (RH)
Wyatt Hamer (WH)
Jennifer Hammett (JH)
Suzanne Hasiak (SH)
Kadynn Hatfield (KH)
Dave Heidt (DH)
Ian Hoppe (IH)
Lesley Howard (LHo)
Michele Hurt (MH)
Bill F. Huser (BFH)
Esa Jarvi (EJ)
Kent & Sandra Jensen (K&SJ)
Amanda Johnson (AJ)
Jan Johnson (JJ)
Jenny Jo Johnson (JJJ)
Mike Johnson (MJ)
Joel G. Jorgensen (JGJ)
Karen Kader (KK)
Lynette Keeshan (LK)
Alice Kenitz (AK)
Doug Kibbe (DK)
Caden Klanderman (CK)
Clem N. Klaphake (CNK)
Marquene Koontz (MK)
Anne Kramer (AKr)
Steve Kruse (SK)
Jordan LaBarr (JL)
Dianne Leonhardt (DLe)
Tony Leukering (TL)
George Maly (GM)
Sam Manning (SMa)
Emma Martin (EM)
D. Matlock (DM)
Frank Mayer (FM)
Bob Meduna (BM)
Holly Miller (HM)
John Miller (JMi)
Steven Mlodinow (SMl)
Jake Mohlmann (JM)
Wayne Mollhoff (WM)
Steve Morris (SM)
Ken Mumm (KM)
Pavan Nagaraj (PN)
Molly Nightingale (MNi)
Jonathan Nikkila (JN)
Marsha Nyffeler (MN)
Jim Ochsner (JO)
Joseph O'Keefe (JOk)
Cameron Ourada (CO)
Loren & Babs Padelford (L&BP)
Christina Parks (CPa)
Don & Janis Paseka (D&JP)
Shane Patterson (SP)
Greg Pella (GP)
Brian Peterson (BP)
Mark Peterson (MP)
Doug Pollard (DP)
Cathy Prettyman (CP)
Jerry Probst (JP)
Neal Ratzlaff (NR)
Mike Remund (MR)
Allen Reyer (AR)
Justin Rink (JR)
Paul Roisen (PR)
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Marie Smith (MS)

Peter Smith (PSm)
Richard Smith (RSm)
Tammy Snyder (TS)
Dalton Spencer (DS)
Ruthie Stearns (RS)
Jason St. Sauver (JSS)
Sheila Stevens (SSt)
Jim Sullivan (JS)
Linda Sullivan (LS)
Phil Swanson (PS)
Steve Taylor (ST)
Tim & Debbie Teal (T&DT)
Jason Thiele (JTh)
Herschel Thompson (HT)
Paul Timm (PT)
Matthew Toews (MT)
Jerry Toll (JT)
David Tønnessen (DT)
Rob Towler (RT)
John Turnbull (JTu)
Rob Tyser (RTy)
Moni Usasz (MUs)
Matthew & Cynthia Van Den Broeke (M&CV)
T. J. Walker (TJW)
John Walter (JW)
Bobby Walz (BW)
Kylee Warren (KW)
Gordon Warrick (GW)
Eli Weber (EW)
Don & Marion Weidemann (D&MW)
Bob Wells (BWe)
Cassidy Wessel (CW)
Juanita Whittecar (JWh)
Michael Willison (MW)

SPECIES ACCOUNTS

Black-bellied Whistling-Duck: Only the 2nd record for Apr was one in *Johnson* 13 Apr (MR fide JGJ, SMa, photo). Also unexpectedly northerly were two near Burwell, *Garfield* 17 May (DP fide JGJ, photo).

Snow Goose: High count reported was only 40,000, in *Clay* 6 Mar (SBk); highest counts were reported late winter during Feb.

Ross's Goose: Routine reports.

Greater White-fronted Goose: There were reports from five eastern locations of birds lingering into May, latest 11 May (LE, m. ob.). Rare in the Panhandle but more numerous in recent years, migrants were detected there at peak migration: a group of 45 in *Garden* 4 Mar (SBr), and three reports of 2, 15, and 18 in *Scotts Bluff* 4-6 Mar (SMl).

Cackling Goose: Latest lingerers were six at Conestoga Lake, *Lancaster* 20 May (DL) and one at Lodgepole WTP, *Cheyenne* 19-24 May (KMD, SMl, TL). Excellent spring tallies in *Scotts Bluff* were the 1900 near Minatare 26 Mar (SMl) and 1600 at Winters Creek Lake 25 Mar (TL), possibly the same flock.

Canada Goose: As with Snow Goose, no large concentrations were reported; best count was only 600, at five eastern locations 1-10 Mar (DC, PT, TH). Three pairs were on territory in *Dakota* 13 Mar, and first apparent incubation was noted in *Lancaster* 23 Mar (LE), rather early.

Mute Swan: The two reports were considered "introduced exotics"; one was at North Park Lake, Kearney, *Buffalo* 13-15 Mar (DLe) and the other near Cunningham Lake, Omaha, *Douglas* 14 Mar (JM).

Trumpeter Swan: Immatures may lag behind adults in spring migration; an apparent family group was in northern *Knox* 10 May (MB, EBr, LBr) but only a juvenile was still there 31 May (MB), two were at Wood Duck WMA,

Stanton 26-29 Apr (EBr, LBr, JTh), and one was at Hansen WPA, *Clay* 26 Apr (JGJ, SMa). First arrivals in the Sandhills were the 10 at Smith Lake WMA, *Sheridan* 21 Mar (D&MW); no nesting was reported during the period, however. Best count was the 23 at the FF Marsh 1 Apr (L&BP). Nesting at a pond at Ravenna, *Hall* appears to have hit a snag; only single adults were there in 2019 and 27 Apr-30 May in 2020 (WF) although two were present 17 Mar 2020 (JCd, m. ob.).

Tundra Swan: Second-highest spring count on record was the 15 at wetlands northwest of Lyons in *Burt* 5 Mar (LE); 3-15 were in the area 29 Feb-5 Mar (PT, EBr, LBr), including 12 in nearby *Thurston* 3 Mar (EBr, LBr).

Wood Duck: A brood of 12 with hen in *Lancaster* 4 May (LE) was record early for a brood by one day.

Blue-winged Teal: The 1150 in *Dakota* 11 Apr (BFH, RT, JP) was a good count. A brood of four with hen at PP 20 May (MUs) was quite early for a brood, as was an observation of copulation 17 Apr in Lincoln, *Lancaster* (JJJ).

Cinnamon Teal: Easternmost were five males at five locations, all in *Lancaster* 28 Mar-23 May (m. ob.), a good showing for this species in the east.

Blue-winged x Cinnamon Teal: Almost as many were reported as were "pure" Cinnamons in the east; four birds, all at four eastern locations 7 Apr-2 May (m. ob.).

Northern Shoveler: Routine reports.

Gadwall: Routine reports.

This "Storm Wigeon" or "White-cheeked Wigeon", a variant of American Wigeon, was photographed in *Antelope* 31 Mar 2020 by Mark Brogie. It is Nebraska's second, but the first was photographed in the same area 8 Apr 2018, suggesting the same bird was involved.

Northern Shoveler x Gadwall: This rare hybrid was photographed in *York* 9 May (BP); it is one of only about 30 in all recorded in North America (eBird.org).

American Wigeon: A normal but quite rare variant of male American Wigeon is the "Storm" or "White-cheeked" Wigeon; one was in *Antelope* 31 Mar (MB), possibly the same bird as was seen there 8 Apr 2018.

Mallard: Nesting was underway early; a nest with 10 eggs was unexpectedly located in a Grand Island, *Hall* tree hollow 21 Apr (JMi fide JGJ), and a brood of 8-10 with hen was in Towl Park, Omaha, *Douglas* 21 May (NR, PN, MC).

Northern Pintail: Routine reports.

Green-winged Teal: Routine reports.

Canvasback: Routine reports.

Redhead: Routine reports.

Ring-necked Duck: Routine reports.

Greater Scaup: Routine reports.

Lesser Scaup: Routine reports.

Surf Scoter: Only the 10th-12th spring records were of an adult male at HCR 18-25 Mar, record early (RF video, m. ob.) and an immature male at Hedgefield Lake WMA, *Lancaster* 11 Apr (LE), which was likely one of the two immature males at nearby Wagon Train RA, *Lancaster* 15-23 Apr (TG, SK, m. ob.).

Black Scoter: Only the 7th spring record was a female/immature at Sutherland Reservoir, *Lincoln* 9 Mar (MG, DK, JD).

Long-tailed Duck: None were reported of this rare but annual spring migrant with last dates in mid-Apr.

Bufflehead: Routine reports.

Bufflehead x Common Goldeneye: Rounding out the list of four hybrid or odd-plumaged ducks this spring was an apparent Bufflehead x Common Goldeneye hybrid photographed in *Dodge* 19 Apr (CCr). There are at least 50 reports of this cross in eBird.

Common Goldeneye: A male at North Platte WTP, *Lincoln* 18 May (BE) was late. An excellent tally was the 1000 on Lewis and Clark Lake in *Knox* 6 Mar (K&S

Barrow's Goldeneye: None were reported of this annual winter visitor to the North Platte River Valley with last dates in late Mar.J). Three of the four highest spring counts are from this location.

Hooded Merganser: A hen and brood of up to nine young were found 16 May 2020 at PP (LH, JGJ photo, m. ob.) and observed by many through 28 May, when eight young were still present (EJ).

Common Merganser: Two at Heron Haven, Omaha, *Douglas* 31 May (B&JB) were late.

Red-breasted Merganser: Routine reports.

Ruddy Duck: Routine reports.

Northern Bobwhite: Routine reports.

Wild Turkey: Routine reports.

Sharp-tailed Grouse: Routine reports.

Greater Prairie-Chicken: A section of the northeastern Nebraska range extends eastward into northern *Madison*, where leks were found west of Battle Creek

30 Apr (5; WH) and north of Battle Creek 31 Mar (JTh) and 13 May (MB). This range may be extending southeast in the Elkhorn River Valley; one of 11 near Wood Duck WMA, *Stanton* 3 Apr was displaying (JTh), four were at Wood Duck WMA 8 May (WH), and, most surprising, was one displaying on a gravel road southwest of Scribner in *Dodge* 17 Apr (AJ). Reports from the Panhandle are still few; at least one was at CLNWR 30 May 2020 (RTy), and three near Oshkosh, *Garden* 26 May 2020 (DS).

Gray Partridge: There were reports of 1-2 from four locations in the vicinity of Fordyce, *Cedar* 23 Apr-24 May (m. ob.); there have been very few reports away from *Cedar* for several years.

Ring-necked Pheasant: Routine reports.

This Greater Prairie-Chicken was displaying on a gravel road in central *Dodge*, quite far east of its expected range, and was photographed by Amanda Johnson 17 Apr 2020.

Pied-billed Grebe: Routine reports.

Horned Grebe: Routine reports.

Eared Grebe: Routine reports.

Western Grebe: Routine reports.

Clark's Grebe: Routine reports.

Rock Pigeon: Routine reports.

Eurasian Collared-Dove: Routine reports.

White-winged Dove: Although numbers have increased markedly in recent years, exemplified by reports this spring of 1-2 birds at each of ten locations statewide (m. ob), nesting reports are surprisingly few. Only the 7th, if eventually successful, was a pair in an Ogallala, *Keith* yard 13 Mar that began nestbuilding 7 May (JO).

Mourning Dove: Routine reports.

Yellow-billed Cuckoo: Routine reports.

Black-billed Cuckoo: This now-rare species in Nebraska was photographed in *Sarpy* 23 May (KK) for the only report.

Common Nighthawk: The 16 flyovers at MWCW 21 May (MUs) was a good tally for spring.

Common Poorwill: One photographed at Imperial, *Chase* 7 Apr (MB) was record early by one day. The 10 at Wright's Gap Road, *Scotts Bluff* 22 May (TL, KMD) was a good count. See Whip-poor-will below.

This adult female Broad-tailed Hummingbird (note pointed outer primary)was in southeastern *Dawes* 19 May-through the period, here photographed 22 May by Juanita Whittecar.

Chuck-will's-widow: Reports were from two locations: one was recorded at a previously unknown location in extreme southeastern *Saunders* 5 May (SMa), and excellent counts were the 3-7 at Table Rock WMA, *Pawnee* 29-30 May (BE, CCh, TG).

Whip-poor-will: A bird reported as this species with "pretty definite white on the sides of its tail" was flushed at Sacramento-Wilcox WMA, *Phelps* 20 Apr by an observer familiar with Common Poorwill (BM fide JGJ); this is a westerly location for this species and so the possibility of Common Poorwill, although

easterly at the location but probably more likely, could not be eliminated from the description.

Chimney Swift: Courtship V-display, usually performed by mated pairs with following bird cocking wings in a V, was observed in *Cheyenne* 24 May (TL, KMD).

White-throated Swift: Routine reports.

Ruby-throated Hummingbird: The seven at FF 21 May (SMa) was a good spring tally.

Anna's Hummingbird: A female at the Whittecar feeders 28 May (JWh, photos) is the 4th record for Nebraska.

This adult female Broad-tailed Hummingbird (same bird as previous photo) was in southeastern *Dawes* 19 May-through the period, here photographed 17 Jun by Juanita Whittecar.

Broad-tailed Hummingbird: The incidence of spring records continues to increase; this spring there were five different birds photographed, the 12th-16th spring records, the first as recent as 2014. Three were at the Croft feeders in *Scotts Bluff*: an immature female 5 May, an adult female 13 May, and an adult male 18 May (CCf). Two were at the Whittecar feeders in *Dawes*: an adult female 19 May-through the period (JWh, photos) and an adult male 26 May (JWh photo, video; eBird.org).

Virginia Rail: One heard at VNWR, *Cherry* 9 Mar (AE) and the seven heard near Lewellen, *Garden* 23 Mar (SMl) likely were wintering. A record spring tally was the 14 at Wood Duck WMA, *Stanton* 3 May (SMa).

Sora: One photographed in Lincoln, *Lancaster* 30 Mar (TSn fide JGJ) was 3rd-earliest on record, and merely early was another at LSWNP 5 Apr (SSt).

This female Anna's Hummingbird was photographed by Juanita Whittecar in southeastern Dawes 28 May 2020. It is Nebraska's 4th record of the species.

Common Gallinule: The only report was of one at Burchard WMA, *Pawnee* 30 May (JGJ).

American Coot: Routine reports.

Sandhill Crane: Routine Reports.

Common Crane: One was photographed near Lewellen, *Garden* 12 Mar, where probably the same bird was found in Apr 2019 (KW). This is Nebraska's 19th record.

Whooping Crane: Routine reports.

Black-necked Stilt: Two photographed at Swanson Reservoir, *Hitchcock* 11 Apr (BE) tied for 3rd-earliest on record. Generally rare in the east, reports have increased during the last three springs. This spring one was near Boyer Chute NWR, *Washington* 19-23 Apr (CP, SBd, KG), one was at Wehrspann Wetlands, *Sarpy* 1 May (KG, m. ob.), and 1-2 were at MWCW 2-7 May (EJ, m. ob.).

American Avocet: Routine reports.

Black-bellied Plover: Routine reports.

American Golden-Plover: Routine reports.

Killdeer: Routine reports.

Semipalmated Plover: Routine reports.

Piping Plover: Although recent studies have shown that a large proportion of one-year-old birds are known to disperse widely from their natal areas, there is growing banding/resighting evidence that adults do so as well. This spring,

Nebraska observers reported four banded birds, with the following histories showing widespread dispersal:

(1) 19 Apr Smith Lagoon WPA, *Clay* (JGJ); banded 2017 Turtle Lake, ND

(2) 20 Apr Oak Lake Park, *Lancaster* (TH); banded 2015 Valley, *Douglas*, NE; sighted Jun 2016 Missouri River in *Dixon*

(3) 22 Apr Oak Lake Park, *Lancaster* (RS); banded Jun 2016 sandpit near Minden, *Kearney*, NE; sighted 2017 Missouri River near Fort Randall Dam, SD

(4) 23 Apr Kissinger Basin WMA, *Clay* (JGJ); banded 2016 Lake Sakakawea, ND; sighted Jul 2019 alkali lake near Westby, MT.

Mountain Plover: Routine reports.

This female Anna's Hummingbird (same bird as previous photo) was photographed by Juanita Whittecar in southeastern Dawes 28 May 2020. It is Nebraska's 4th record of the species. Anna's females are generally noticeably duller gray-green than Ruby-throated, usually with flanks washed gray-green, lack rufous either on the flanks or in the tail, and wings reach to about the end of the tail, not shorter as in Ruby-throated and Black-chinned Hummingbirds. Females often show reddish feathers in the gorget area.

Snowy Plover: The two reports for this spring were of singles in *Saunders* 18 Apr (GR) and *Fillmore* 23-26 Apr (JGJ, SMa). Two belated reports of nesting in 2019 came to hand, both in the Central Platte River Valley. A nest with eggs was unsuccessful at a site near Newark, *Kearney* 6 Jun-3 Jul, and up to four were at a site about 10 mi southwest of Grand Island 14-23 May, where scrapes and copulation by a pair were observed 23 May; rising water levels inundated the site however (Ostrom et al; https://birds.outdoornebraska.gov/snowy-plover/).

Upland Sandpiper: Routine reports.

Whimbrel: This species is less than annual in the east away from the RWB, and so the two in *Nemaha* 15 May (NR photo) were only the 6th such record.

Long-billed Curlew: Routine reports.

Hudsonian Godwit: The 12 at LaPlatte Bottoms, *Sarpy* 8 Apr (MJ) were early. Another interesting banding record was of one in *Wayne* 16 Apr that had been banded 9500 km away at Chiloe Island, southern Chile (fide EBr).

Marbled Godwit: Routine reports.

Ruddy Turnstone: 3rd-earliest on record was one in *Pierce* 25 Apr (SB).

Stilt Sandpiper: Routine reports.

Sanderling: Routine reports.

Dunlin: Routine reports.

Baird's Sandpiper: Arrival was early, with one at BOL 10-11 Mar (LE, m. ob.) and another at Smartweed Marsh WMA, *Nuckolls* 11 Mar (JS).

Least Sandpiper: Routine reports.

White-rumped Sandpiper: As with Baird's, this species arrived early, although mid-Apr sightings need careful documentation. A loner at Oak Lake Park, *Lancaster* 19-25 Apr (SK photo, m. ob.) and three at Lake Wanahoo, *Saunders* 19 Apr (TH photo) were record early documented sightings.

Buff-breasted Sandpiper: Routine reports.

Pectoral Sandpiper: Routine reports.

Semipalmated Sandpiper: Routine reports.

Western Sandpiper: There were three reports with photos of this rare spring migrant. Singles were at Oak Lake Park, *Lancaster* 18-25 Apr (RS photo, m. ob.), in *Fillmore* 26 Apr (JGJ), and in *Hall* 26 May (GA), which is the latest documented sighting on record.

Short-billed Dowitcher: Routine reports.

Long-billed Dowitcher: One in *Madison* 9 Mar (JTh) tied 2nd-earliest on record.

American Woodcock: Recent years have seen increasing reports around CR, but breeding had not been confirmed until this spring, when an adult and two fledglings were found below the dam in *Garfield* 6 May (TD fide JGJ). This is a range extension along the North Loup River from *Valley*. In addition, there were reports of up to five at Gracie Creek at CR, *Loup* 24-28 Mar (KS, JN, BE). A somewhat lost single may have been attempting art appreciation at Joslyn Museum, Omaha, *Douglas* 3 Mar (AKr fide RSc, m. ob.).

Wilson's Snipe: Likely representing peripheral breeders were 1-3 in Pumpkin Creek wetlands, *Banner* 21-27 May (TL, KMD), two at Lake Wanahoo, *Saunders* 19 May (CNK), and one at Tamora WPA, *Seward* 26 May (GA).

Spotted Sandpiper: Routine reports.

Solitary Sandpiper: A record spring count was the nine along Road P51, *Washington* 28 Apr (SMa).
Lesser Yellowlegs: Routine reports.
Willet: Routine reports.
Greater Yellowlegs: Routine reports.
Wilson's Phalarope: Routine reports.
Red-necked Phalarope: Generally rare in the east, with only around 35 reports prior to this spring, there were numerous sightings 10-28 May from eight locations of low numbers, total 12 birds (m. ob.).
Bonaparte's Gull: The 150 in *Dakota* 11 Apr was the largest number on record there (BFH, RT).
Franklin's Gull: The 6000 at MWCW 10 Apr (MW) was the 4th-highest spring count on record for the state.
Mew Gull: This species is mostly a migrant in Nebraska; it is still less than annual in spring, but there were two reports at LM which were shown by photos to be different birds: an adult 12 Apr (NA, photo) and a first cycle 23 Mar (SMl photo).
Ring-billed Gull: Routine reports.
California Gull: There were reports of 1-2 at six expected western locations, total eight birds, 10 Mar-25 May (m. ob.).
Herring Gull: Routine reports.
Iceland Gull: The 14 Thayer's types at LM 18 Mar (NA) was a record spring tally; 10 were there 23 Mar (SMl). A Thayer's type at LM 3 May (BE photo) was a new late spring date. Thayer's types are at the dark end of the Iceland Gull cline and are by far the most common type in Nebraska. Paler types were also at LM: a very pale "*Laurus glaucoides glaucoides/kumlieni*" 8 Mar (KMD photo), a "*Laurus glaucoides thayeri/kumlieni*" 20 Mar (NA), and a slightly darker bird 23 Mar (SMl photo).
Lesser Black-backed Gull: 8-9 were at LM 18-23 Mar (NA, SMl), the nine is a record spring tally. Some 21 in total were reported statewide 8 Mar-3 May, a new spring high total.
Glaucous Gull: A total of four first-year birds were reported at four locations statewide 8-30 Mar (m. ob.); only one had been reported in mid-winter.
Great Black-backed Gull: Reports were of 1-2 at BOL and PL 6-29 Mar (SK photo, m. ob.), the two were present 19-25 Mar (NA photos, LE). There are now 17 spring records for this less than annual species, about 40 in all for Nebraska.
Least Tern: Routine reports.
Caspian Tern: Routine reports.
Black Tern: Routine reports.
Common Tern: One at BOL 29 Apr (KS photo) was early.
Forster's Tern: One at Conestoga Lake, *Lancaster* 28 Mar (TJW) was early.
Common Loon: Routine reports.
Double-crested Cormorant: Routine reports.
Neotropic Cormorant: There were two reports from *Lancaster,* possibly of the same bird: singles were at PL 12 Mar (SK photo) and at Wagon Train RA 20 Mar (LE). Both dates are quite early.
American White Pelican: Routine reports.

American Bittern: One at Deep Well WMA, *Hamilton* 29 Mar (RF photo) is 4th-earliest on record.

Least Bittern: One at FF 27 Apr (EW photo) was early. The only other reports were of one at LSWNP 12 and 15 May (LS photo) and one at Crescent Lake WMA, *Garden* 30 May (RTy), where rare.

Great Blue Heron: Several small rookeries were reported, mostly in the east (m. ob.). Breeding began early, with new early dates for incubation 14 Mar in *Washington* (CP) and nestlings 8 May at WP (GM).

Great Egret: 2nd-earliest on record was one in *Lincoln* 8 Mar (K&SJ). A record spring high count was the 81 at Blyburg Lake, *Dakota* 19 Apr (BFH). Reports were widespread, with a total of around 465 individuals. Rare in the Panhandle, singles were at Ellsworth, *Sheridan* 2 May (D&MW) and in *Scotts Bluff* 19 Apr (KD).

Snowy Egret: Numbers were good for this species as well; about 43 were reported 11 Apr- 22 May (m. ob.).

Little Blue Heron: None were reported of this uncommon spring migrant east and central with expected arrival dates in mid-Apr.

Cattle Egret: Four in *Platte* 1 Apr (EBr, LBr) were early.

Green Heron: One at Brownlee, *Cherry* 21 May (DS) was westerly.

Black-crowned Night-Heron: Routine reports.

Yellow-crowned Night-Heron: None were reported of this rare southeastern spring migrant with expected arrival dates in mid-Apr.

Glossy Ibis: One at Harvard WPA, *Clay* 11 Apr (CCh) was earliest on record, and a record high count of six were there by 26 Apr (JGJ). About 22 were reported in all, a record total for spring.

Glossy x White-faced Ibis: There were no fewer than 11 hybrids between Glossy and White-faced Ibis reported. As the numbers of Glossy Ibis continue to increase, hybrids should follow roughly in proportion, as there is weak reproductive isolation between the two species.

White-faced Ibis: As with Glossy Ibis, arrival was early; 2nd-earliest on record was one at Straight Water WMA, *Seward* 6 Apr (JGJ), and 4th-earliest the four at Hedgefield Lake WMA, *Lancaster* 9 Apr (KHG).

Turkey Vulture: The 200+ in five trees at the North Platte Cemetery, *Lincoln* 31 Mar (BE) must have been mind-boggling, as well as being a record spring count.

Osprey: Three of the five *Scotts Bluff* nests were occupied by 8 Apr and the Riverside nest by 2 May (KD). By the end of May five *Scotts Bluff* nests were active (D&JC fide AK).

Golden Eagle: Rare in the east, single immatures were in *Cedar* 3 Mar (JTh) and *Knox* 10 Apr (MB, EBr, LBr).

Northern Harrier: Routine reports.

Sharp-shinned Hawk: Routine reports.

Cooper's Hawk: Nestlings were a bit early in *Lancaster* 25 May (RS).

Northern Goshawk: None were reported of this rare statewide spring migrant with last expected dates in mid-May.

Bald Eagle: Previously, few nests occurred in the RWB, but the two new nests there this year, near Utica, *Seward* and at Mallard Haven WPA, *Fillmore* continued the "filling in" of the RWB breeding range map (JGJ).

Mississippi Kite: One had returned to the North Platte, *Lincoln* "kite tree" by 5 May (BE). The reports were from this and three additional known breeding locations except for a likely migrant in *Frontier* 10 May (BE) and a quite northerly bird at Gordon, *Sheridan* 20 May (D&MW photo).

Harris's Hawk: Nebraska's five previous records were 26 Oct-27 Jan, but an unbanded bird in Bellevue, *Sarpy* 13 Apr (SH photo, fide JGJ) was a first spring record, 7th overall, and 5th for 2017-2020. Although it may have wintered in the area, it was a different bird from the one banded at Offutt Air Force Base, *Sarpy* 14 Nov 2019 (fide MB).

Red-shouldered Hawk: The only report was of one at Table Rock WMA, *Pawnee* 23 May (JSS).

Broad-winged Hawk: Westerly reports are increasing; two were at Gering Cemetery, *Scotts Bluff* 4-5 May (KMD, TL), one was in *Morrill* 26 May (TL, KMD), and one was northerly in Gordon, *Sheridan* 10-15 May (D&MW). A dark phase bird was over Bellevue, *Sarpy* 20 Apr (AR).

Swainson's Hawk: Of 43 counted 15 Apr near Sutton, *Clay*, two were dark phase and one rufous, and of 78 tallied for the season through 19 Apr, two were dark and two rufous (JGJ). Rather early nesting initiation was seen at Gering Cemetery, *Scotts Bluff* 14 Apr (AK).

Red-tailed (Eastern Red-tailed) Hawk: Routine reports.

Red-tailed (Eastern, Krider's): There were three reports, two of which were apparently of the same bird photographed at NNF Bessey, *Thomas* 7 and 13 Mar (DCa, IC), and the other was well-described in *Scotts Bluff* 6 Mar (SMl).

Red-tailed (Western Red-tailed) Hawk: Routine reports.

Red-tailed (Harlan's) Hawk: A dark morph juvenile in *Butler* 17 May (SMa photo) was record late by about a month. Also tardy was one at Kiowa WMA, *Scotts Bluff* 18 Apr (SMl). One in *Antelope* 30 Mar was a bit north and west of the expected winter range for the date (MB), likely a migrant.

Rough-legged Hawk: Routine reports.

Ferruginous Hawk: A tardy first year bird was in *Fillmore* 3-6 May (JGJ photo, SBr), only the observer's (JGJ) second in the county in 26 years. The RWB is at the eastern edge of the Nebraska winter range.

Barn Owl: Rare in the east, one was in *Dixon* 16 May (JJ).

Eastern Screech-Owl: A set of eggs at NNF Bessey, *Thomas* 6 Apr (WM) was early.

Great Horned Owl: Routine reports.

Snowy Owl: None were reported of this occasionally common winter visitor with last expected dates in mid-Mar.

Burrowing Owl: At the eastern edge of the summer range were two at Clark WPA, *Kearney* 6 May (WF), and singles in *Loup* 26 May (CO) and *Boyd* 29 May (JTh).

Barred Owl: The apparent small population in the Oxford City Park, *Furnas* continues; calling birds were heard 18 and 25 Mar (WF). Fledglings in *Douglas* 28 Apr (JJC) were early.

Long-eared Owl: Reports after mid-Apr are likely of breeders; most breed at one year of age. Thus of interest were one at FF 30 May (JOk photo) and one along Wright's Gap Road in *Banner* 22 May (TL, KMD).

Short-eared Owl: Although winter sightings are expected, breeding season reports are less so. The only spring report was of one in *Kimball* 29 May (JN).

Northern Saw-whet Owl: An intriguing find was the calling birds in *Douglas* 27-29 Mar (SMa, JR); the timing coincides with a bout of calling that seems to precede migration or post-wintering dispersal and so is a good time to detect these birds. This species continues in the Wildcat Hills, *Scotts Bluff*; chicks in a nest box there were rather late in hatching 5 May (WM), and one was in the area 16 May (KD). One in Sowbelly Canyon, *Sioux* 28 May (SMl) was in an area where breeding likely occurs.

Belted Kingfisher: Routine reports.

Lewis's Woodpecker: Continuing its recent record of popping up in unexpected places, one was near Lewellen, *Garden* 3 May (MK photo, fide CB). Three others were reported, two at CSP 30 May (JN) and one in Smiley Canyon, *Sioux* 27 May (KS, RSk).

Red-headed Woodpecker: Two at PSP 7 Mar and again 27 Mar (EBr, LBr) were north of the usual winter range.

Red-bellied Woodpecker: Routine reports.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: One in *Knox* 4 May (MB) was tardy.

Red-naped Sapsucker: Only the 7th on record for spring was a male at Ash Hollow SHP, *Garden* 23 Mar (SMl photos).

Downy Woodpecker: Nestlings in *Lancaster* 23 May (MT) were a bit early.

Downy x Hairy Woodpecker: This hybrid was found 6 Apr at Riverside Park, *Scotts Bluff* (TL, eBird.org) and photographed there 21 Apr (SMl, eBird.org). It was first noticed due to reduced "shoulder" spotting, resembling a Rocky Mountains bird, but its size, plumage features and calls were intermediate between Hairy and Downy Woodpeckers.

Hairy Woodpecker: Routine reports.

Northern Flicker: Single "Red-shafted" Flickers in *Lancaster* 17 Apr (IH) and *Antelope* 26 Apr (SB) were late in the east, as was one in *Brown* 17 May (K&JC).

Pileated Woodpecker: One at PSP 24 May (PR) was only the 3rd record there. The Platte River Valley range does not quite extend to *Dodge,* but there were two reports there: one at Hormel Park, Fremont 26 Apr (HM) and, surprisingly, one along Maple Creek on Road 13 on 21 Apr (D&JP), about 15 miles northwest of Fremont, and the only "inland" record for *Dodge* or *Saunders*.

American Kestrel: Routine reports.

Merlin: Routine reports.

Peregrine Falcon: One in *Hall* 21 Mar (JH) was a bit early and another in *Dawson* 26 May (T&DT, RSm) was tardy. The pair at the OPPD North Omaha Station, *Douglas*, male Lewis and female Clark, nest mates in 2012 at the Nebraska Capitol Building, *Lancaster*, settled in in early Mar, and were incubating three eggs by 30 Mar. The first chick hatched 3 May, and three chicks were present on 14 May (JT). The Capitol pair was in residence through the period (m. ob.). The Omaha, *Douglas* pair at Woodmen Tower had four chicks on 18 May (ST).

Prairie Falcon: Easternmost of five reports in the east through 3 Apr (*Knox,* MB) was one in *Lancaster* 16 Mar (EJ).

Olive-sided Flycatcher: The four at UNL East Campus, *Lancaster* 23 May (JGJ) was a good tally. Migrants are least numerous in central Nebraska, where there were three reports: up to three were at Valentine NWR, *Cherry* 14-22 May (AE), one was at Cottonmill Park, *Buffalo* (WB, JN), and one in *Frontier* 30 May (WB).

This Hammond's Flycatcher was photographed 17 May in *Scotts Bluff* by Marie Smith. Note long primary extension, prominent "tear-drop" eye ring, and duller spring plumage compared with usual bright fall plumage characteristic of this species.

Western Wood-Pewee: One heard calling and photographed in *Frontier* 24 May (BE) was at the eastern edge of the expected migration corridor. The 26 tallied in Sowbelly Canyon, *Sioux* 28 May (SMl) was a good count.

Eastern Wood-Pewee: One recorded at CSP 28 May (KS, RSk) was a rare documented Panhandle record. The 25 at FF 23 May (PSm) was a record spring count.

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: A surprising 11+ were reported 18 May through the period, all in the east (m. ob.). This is the highest total count for a spring, possibly a reflection of observers' increasing familiarity with the species.

Acadian Flycatcher: Routine reports.

Alder Flycatcher: Often overlooked, but as with Yellow-bellied, observers are becoming more confident identifying this species. Best count was six at WP 21 May (MW).

Willow Flycatcher: One in *Lincoln* 3 May (JN) was early.

This Black Phoebe, Nebraska's first, was near Morrill, *Scotts Bluff* 26 Apr 2020, here photographed by its finder Tony Leukering.

Hammond's Flycatcher: This species, as well as others in the west generally regarded as predominantly fall migrants, are increasingly reported in spring. There were two reports, 7th and 8th overall for spring: one was identified from photos of several empid flycatchers in *Scotts Bluff* 17 May (MS, KD), and one was well-described at Ponderosa WMA, *Dawes* 28 May (SMl).

Dusky Flycatcher: Another species with increasing spring records, singles were at OR 15 May (SMl) and in Sowbelly Canyon, *Sioux* 28 May (SMl photo). These are the 14th and 15th overall for spring.

Cordilleran Flycatcher: Reports were from expected Pine Ridge locations 22 May through the period (m. ob.). The 11 in Sowbelly Canyon, *Sioux* (SMl), a prime breeding site, may have included migrants.

Least Flycatcher: Routine reports.

Black Phoebe: Nebraska's first state record, a "one day wonder" and somewhat overdue, was found and photographed at Morrill Sandpits, *Scotts Bluff* 26 Apr by Tony Leukering (https://ebird.org/checklist/S67853480) and seen that afternoon by Kathy DeLara (https://ebird.org/checklist/S67863132). It could not be located subsequently.

Eastern Phoebe: Routine reports.

Say's Phoebe: Unexpected was one that appeared at Flanagan Lake, *Douglas* 23 Mar (EBe, photo) and (almost certainly the same bird) remained there until 18 Apr (m. ob.). Not to be outdone, another easterly bird was at Nathan's Lake, *Washington* 17 Apr (SMa).

Great Crested Flycatcher: Routine reports.

Great Kiskadee: Amazingly, another "one day wonder" first state record appeared in the front yard bird bath of a Barneston, *Gage* home 3 May 2020 for a few minutes, was photographed by the homeowner, Sheriena McEvers, and not seen again.

Cassin's Kingbird: Early were two along Wright's Gap Road in *Banner* 2 and 3 May (TL, KMD) and two more along CR19 in *Banner* 3 May (TL, KMD).

Western Kingbird: Routine reports.

Eastern Kingbird: Routine reports.

Scissor-tailed Flycatcher: Now expected as a summering species in the southeast, this year's vanguard was a male that appeared 28 Apr in the area of 626 Avenue and 712 Road, *Pawnee* (MH); it was subsequently joined by another male and a female, present through the period (m. ob.).

Loggerhead Shrike: One at Red Willow Reservoir in *Frontier* 18 Mar (FM, SBl) was early for the location.

Northern Shrike: One in Gordon, *Sheridan* 11 Apr (D&MW) was tardy for the location.

White-eyed Vireo: One in *Scotts Bluff* 20 Apr (TL) was not only the 3rd Panhandle record, but 3rd-earliest on record. It was followed by the 4th Panhandle record, one in *Deuel* 22 May (DT photo). In recent years, this species has become annual but still rare in the southeast; this spring, however, there were three records in addition to the two Panhandle records: singles at Towl Park, *Douglas* 2-3 May (NR, m. ob.), one at LSWNP 25 May (SK), and one in a Lincoln, *Lancaster* yard 26 May (M&CV).

Bell's Vireo: One at OR 15 May (SMl) was early for the Panhandle.

Yellow-throated Vireo: Westerly Niobrara River Valley migrants were singles, all in *Brown*, 17 May (JCo), 19 May (DS), and 23 May (SB). Such reports have increased in this area in recent years. Rather early nest-building was noted at WP 8 May (LE).

Blue-headed Vireo: Less than annual away from the east, and west of *Hall* in the Platte River Valley, there were a surprising five such reports from *Buffalo*: 1-2 were reported on each of four days 3-18 May at Cottonmill Park (JN, AF), and one was at Pioneer Park 12 May (AF).

Plumbeous Vireo: The 2nd, 3rd, and 4th-earliest on record were singles in *Scotts Bluff* 4 May (KMD), *Sioux* 6 May (TL, KMD), and *Banner* 7 May (KMD, TL).

Philadelphia Vireo: Westerly were singles at Cottonmill Park, *Buffalo* 8 May (AF) and 14 May (BB, AF) and in Grand Island, *Hall* 23 May (SM).

Warbling Vireo: Routine reports.

Red-eyed Vireo: Routine reports.

Pinyon Jay: The only report was of a flock of 16 along West Ash Creek Road, *Dawes* 6 May (KMD, TL).

Blue Jay: The 18 at Stateline Island, *Scotts Bluff* 5 Apr (SMl) was a good Panhandle tally.

Black-billed Magpie: Encouraging were reports from three currently extralimital locations, albeit all of singles, in *Gosper* 24 Mar (AF), *Cheyenne* 29 Mar (IG, EM), and *Dawson* 18 May (KGl). The small eastern disjunct population in *Madison* persists, with three seen 31 Mar (JTh).

American Crow: The 2200 near Spencer, *Boyd* 17 Mar (DCa) was 2nd-highest spring count on record.

Common Raven: The beat continued of undocumented reports of this species. How hard can it be to get a photo or recording?

Horned Lark: Routine reports.

Bank Swallow: Routine reports.

Tree Swallow: Earliest nestlings reported this spring were at PP 28 May (EJ).

Violet-green Swallow: Good counts were the 15 near Chadron, *Dawes* 23 May (GB) and 14 at Chadron Creek Ranch WMA, *Dawes* 25 May (TL, KMD).

Northern Rough-winged Swallow: What was probably the same bird reported by three separate observers at MWCW 1 Apr (TG, JSS, MW) was early.

Purple Martin: Only the 5th spring and summer North Platte River Valley record west of *Keith* was of one on Wright's Gap Road, *Scotts Bluff* 2 May (TL, KMD). Colonies continued at westerly outposts: up to seven were at Valentine, *Cherry* 6 May through the period (JED), 1-2 were in the Ogallala, *Keith* area 9-22 May (WB, LHo), and an amazing 100 were estimated over Benkelman, *Dundy* 23 May (MP).

Barn Swallow: Routine reports.

Cliff Swallow: One at Holmes Lake, *Lancaster* 4 Apr with Barn Swallows (LE) was 4th-earliest on record.

Black-capped Chickadee: The 29 at Gilbert-Baker WMA, *Sioux* 29 Mar (SMl) was a good spring count. Early nest-building was underway in *Lancaster* 2 Apr (MUs).

Tufted Titmouse: Probably a single individual singer first heard just north of Old Cheney Road in WP 1 Apr (RS) settled in and continued singing just south of Old Cheney through the period (m. ob.), but apparently without success, as there were no reports of more than one there. Status continues to be in question in the Bellevue, *Sarpy* area; none have appeared at a feeder there for over a year where they used to be frequent (AR).

Red-breasted Nuthatch: The large numbers reported in winter on the Pine Ridge continued; 92 were tallied at Gilbert-Baker WMA, Sioux 29 Mar (SMl).

White-breasted Nuthatch: Reports of the Pine Ridge subspecies *Sitta carolinensis nelsoni* south of the breeding range in winter are likely the norm; singles were

at WHNC 31 Mar (TL) and 18 Apr (SMl) and near Lake Alice, *Scotts Bluff* 26 Mar (SMl).

Pygmy Nuthatch: Tying the record count were the 25 at Gilbert-Baker WMA, *Sioux* 29 Mar (SMl).

Brown Creeper: One near Long Pine, *Brown* 8 May (JCo) may have been a migrant or Niobrara River Valley breeder.

Rock Wren: Probably easterly spring overshoot migrants were 1-2 in Valentine, *Cherry* 1-7 May (GW) and one at Chat Canyon WMA, *Cherry* 14 May (TSc).

House Wren: Nest building was under way in Omaha, *Douglas* by 28 Apr (DR).

Winter Wren: Less than annual in the Panhandle during migration, two were reported, singles at Stateline Island, *Scotts Bluff* 5 Apr (SMl) and at Ash Hollow SHP, *Garden* 21 Apr (SMl). Pacific Wren was ruled out in both cases.

Sedge Wren: Arrival was early, first reported were one at Lake Wanahoo, *Saunders* 21 Apr (LE) and one in *Lancaster* 22 Apr (SBr, JGJ). Reports are increasing in recent years north and west to *Cherry*; three singles were reported in northeastern *Cherry* 19-31 May (DS, EA).

Marsh Wren: Reports after mid-May in suitable habitat suggest breeding, such as one of the eastern subspecies at Burchard WMA, *Pawnee* 30 May (SMa).

Carolina Wren: Range expansion is usually by fall dispersal, winter survival, and nesting the following spring. Last fall dispersal was widespread, and this spring reports suggested some of these dispersals may be successful; there were six reports involving eight birds in the Platte River Valley from *Platte* to *Buffalo* 3-31 May, and in the northeast there were reports 3-27 May from *Cedar, Cuming*, and *Madison* Cos. Very early nest building was noted in Bellevue, *Sarpy* 11 Mar (AR).

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: Reports of migrants are fewest in the central and western Sandhills; one was at NNF Bessey, *Thomas* 30 May (BW).

Golden-crowned Kinglet: Routine reports.

Ruby-crowned Kinglet: One in Omaha, *Douglas* 27 May (JR) was late.

Eastern Bluebird: Early fledglings were in *Lancaster* 6 May (LR).

Mountain Bluebird: The only extralimital report was of one near Raymond, *Lancaster* 15 Mar (JS, LS photo).

Townsend's Solitaire: Easterly and tardy there was one at PRSP 10 Apr (DM photo).

Veery: Good numbers for this generally rare species were reported. In the west, there had been only eight spring reports until this spring, when active observers found five more: 21 May in *Cheyenne* (SMl), 21 May at OR (SMl), 21 May Gering Cemetery, *Scotts Bluff* (KMD, TL), 23 May in *Dawes* (DSa, EA, WA), and 23 May at Box Butte Reservoir, *Dawes* (TL, KMD). Eastern and western migrants are likely of different subspecies, and Veeries are least reported in central Nebraska; westerly was a presumed eastern subspecies bird in *Harlan* 22 May (SP). There were a surprising number of reports in the east, about 14 in all 15-25 May (m. ob.).

Gray-cheeked Thrush: Among numerous reports this spring (see below), westerly was one in *Cheyenne* 21 May (SMl photo), one of very few Panhandle records. At the west edge of the expected migration corridor were singles in *Cherry*, 9 May at Valentine City Park (JED), and at Hackberry Lake, VNWR 13 and 16 May (AE, photos), and one in *Buffalo* 12 May (AF). These westerly

reports probably result from the approximately 48 reports this spring, most on record for a spring season.

Swainson's Thrush: The 83 at OR *Kimball* 21 May (SMl) was a good tally. Nebraska's second record of subspecies *Catharus ustulatus ustulatus*, "Russet-backed Thrush" was photographed at Gering Cemetery, *Scotts Bluff* 15 May (SMl). This subspecies breeds in the Pacific Northwest and is an occasional migrant east of the Rockies in fall.

Hermit Thrush: One in Sowbelly Canyon, *Sioux* 28 May (SMl) was tardy.

Wood Thrush: Routine reports.

American Robin: Good spring counts were the 500 at Wagon Train RA, *Lancaster* 22 Mar (JGJ) and 480 near Lewellen, *Garden* 23 Mar (SMl).

Varied Thrush: One was at Crawford, *Dawes* 14-26 Mar (EG photo).

Gray Catbird: Early in the Panhandle was one at Gering Cemetery, *Scotts Bluff* 1 May (TL, KMD). Early nest building was noted in *Lancaster* 6 May (LE).

Brown Thrasher: Likely a very early migrant rather than a wintering bird given the location was one at Gilbert-Baker WMA, *Sioux* 29 Mar (SMl). Early arrivals in the east not noted in winter were singles in *Washington* 24 Mar (CP) and *Douglas* 25 Mar (CF). A wintering bird at Cunningham Lake, *Douglas* was still present 22 Mar (SBd).

Northern Mockingbird: A good count was the four in western *Kimball* near Pine Bluffs, WY 21 May (SMl). One in *Hooker* 22 May (DS) was northerly as was one in *Dixon* 21 May (PT).

European Starling: Routine reports.

Bohemian Waxwing: The only report was of one at LM 8 Mar (KMD photo).

Cedar Waxwing: The tally of 425 moving north in *Banner* 7 May (TL, KMD) was about the 5th-highest spring tally on record and split the two previously recognized spring migration peaks.

House Sparrow: Routine reports.

American Pipit: Routine reports.

Sprague's Pipit: The only report was of six at SCP 19 Apr (TH).

Evening Grosbeak: There were four reports involving 10 birds, all in *Dawes*: 1 May in Chadron (SSa fide MB), a group of five at Wilson Park, Chadron 22 May recorded and determined by the recordist to be Call Type 1 (DT, CK), three at CSP 23 May (DT), and one at Chadron Creek Ranch WMA 24 May (JN), the latter dates rather late.

Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch: None were reported of this rare winter visitor in the western Panhandle with last expected dates in late Mar.

House Finch: Routine reports.

Purple Finch: The two at Harvey Park, *Buffalo* 18 May (BB) were tardy.

Cassin's Finch: There were four documented reports, involving probably five birds. Likely the same single female was reported three times at WHNC 26 Mar and 18 Apr (SMl, TL; photo) and four were at Chadron Creek Ranch WMA, *Dawes* 24 May (JN photo).

Common Redpoll: The only report, following only two for the winter, was in the same Wakefield, *Dixon* yard as one of the winter records: 2-3 were there through 20 Mar (TSa).

Red Crossbill: There were numerous reports, most in the Panhandle, but several eastward to the Missouri River Valley. Best counts were in the Panhandle, led by the 180 at Chadron Creek Ranch WMA, *Dawes* 25 May which was composed of 90-95% juveniles and first cycle birds (TL, KMD). The expected Type 2 Ponderosa Pine call type was recorded as expected at several Panhandle locations (m. ob.), but surprisingly not elsewhere, although it certainly occurred elsewhere. Type 4 Douglas Fir call type, the second most-often type recorded in Nebraska, was in the Panhandle and at two locations in the east: three on 9 May at Elmwood Park, *Douglas* (SMa), and at Forest Lawn Cemetery, *Douglas* with eight on 5 Apr and seven on 16 May (SMa). In the Panhandle, up to three Type 4 birds were recorded at CSP 29 Mar (SMl) and 23 May (DT, CK), and southwest of Crawford in *Sioux* 6 May (TL, KMD).

White-winged Crossbill: There were three reports, two of which were of continuing, probably wintering birds: a female was at a Bellevue, *Sarpy* feeder 3 Apr (L&BP), and five were tardy at Winship Park, Gordon, *Sheridan* 8 May (D&MW). The third record was of a female at a Genoa, *Nance* feeder 7 Mar (LK photo).

Pine Siskin: Reports were widespread, with several lingering through the period in *Douglas* (m. ob.), but highest numbers were in the Panhandle, best counts 128 at County Road 57, *Banner* 13 Apr (TL) and 100 at WHNC 5 Apr (SMl).

Lesser Goldfinch: One at OR 18 Mar (SMl) may have wintered there or was an early migrant. Early was one in *Scotts Bluff* 11 Apr (CCf) and relatively early were two at Gering Cemetery, *Scotts Bluff* 1 May and one there 4 May (TL, KMD). Easterly was a black-backed male in *Adams* 28 Apr (PD), only the third spring record away from the Panhandle.

American Goldfinch: Routine reports.

Lapland Longspur: Rather late was a flock of 55 in *Wayne* 14 Apr (EBr).

Chestnut-collared Longspur: An adult-plumaged bird in *Clay* 6 May (JGJ, SBr) was late away from breeding areas, and another was easterly in *Merrick* 15 Apr (MB).

Smith's Longspur: The only report of this rare eastern migrant was of a tardy bird in *Wayne* 30 Apr (EBr, LBr, photos).

Thick-billed Longspur: Routine reports.

Snow Bunting: The only report was of one in *Buffalo* 7 Mar (K&SJ) following a winter of widespread reports but low numbers.

Cassin's Sparrow: Arrival was timely, with 6-7 near Exit 1 on I-80, *Kimball* 21 May (SMl, recording); a good tally of 12 was there 30 May (JN).

Grasshopper Sparrow: Numbers were high in the central Sandhills, best count the 88 north of Mullen in *Cherry* 24 May (DS).

Lark Sparrow: Routine reports.

Lark Bunting: Routine reports.

Chipping Sparrow: Routine reports.

Clay-colored Sparrow: Routine reports.

Field Sparrow: One at VNWR 12-14 Mar (AE) was early.

Brewer's Sparrow: Routine reports.

Fox Sparrow: One in *Garfield* 20 Mar (KS) was early for that northerly location.

American Tree Sparrow: Routine reports.

Dark-eyed (Slate-colored) Junco: The 243 at BOL 27 Mar (LE) was a good spring tally.

Dark-eyed (Cassiar) Junco: A new late date was of two at Neale Woods, *Douglas* 22 Apr (JL); another was tardy in central Omaha, *Douglas* 21 Apr (JL).

Dark-eyed (Oregon) Junco: One near Oshkosh, *Garden* 21 Apr (SMl) was tardy.

Dark-eyed (Pink-sided) Junco: Late were one at WHNC 18 Apr (SMl) and singles at two *Banner* locations 2-3 May (TL, KMD).

Dark-eyed (Gray-headed) Junco: One near Sutherland, *Lincoln* 6 May (WB) was only the 21st documented overall for Nebraska.

Dark-eyed (White-winged) Junco: Routine reports.

White-crowned Sparrow: Two dark-lored subspecies occur in Nebraska and are not readily separable in the field; *Zonotrichia leucophrys leucophrys* is mostly eastern in occurrence in winter and scanty current knowledge suggests *Z. l. oriantha* accounts for May and Sep reports in the Panhandle. Reports this spring fit this pattern. In the east lingering dark-lored birds were all found on 1 May: one in *Washington* (LF), one at WGP (SMa), and one in central Omaha, *Douglas* (SMa). In the Panhandle, dark-lored birds were two near Mitchell, *Scotts Bluff* 12 May (KD) and singles at OR 15 May (SMl) and at Gering Cemetery, *Scotts Bluff* 15 May (SMl).

Harris's Sparrow: Rare in the Panhandle, two were at Chadron, *Dawes* 16-17 May (TBu). The 13 at Calamus Reservoir, *Loup* 17 Mar (HT) may have wintered there on the edge of the winter range.

White-throated Sparrow: Early arrivals, possibly wintering, outside the expected winter range were one in *Lincoln* 4 Apr (BE) and two at Ikes Lake, *Wayne* 7-17 Apr (EBr, LBr).

Vesper Sparrow: Routine reports.

LeConte's Sparrow: Routine reports.

Nelson's Sparrow: The only report was of one at MWCW 23 May (SBr, OD).

Henslow's Sparrow: Routine reports.

Savannah Sparrow: One in *Buffalo* 30 May (WF, JW) was tardy.

Song Sparrow: Routine reports.

Lincoln's Sparrow: Routine reports.

Swamp Sparrow: Routine reports.

Green-tailed Towhee: The only reports were of singles at Harrisburg, *Banner* 2 May (TL, KMD), Gering Cemetery, *Scotts Bluff* 4-5 May (KMD), and OR 15 May (SMl).

Spotted Towhee: Early migrants away from the southeastern Nebraska wintering area were singles in *Merrick* 17 Mar (SM) and *Hitchcock* 16 Mar (DLe). An early arrival in the Panhandle was one in recorded in Carter Canyon, *Scotts Bluff* 26 Mar (SMl).

Spotted x Eastern Towhee (hybrid): There were six reports of "Spotted x Eastern Towhee", all of which were more likely introgressants rather than first generation crosses; such birds should probably be reported as "Spotted/Eastern (Rufous-sided) Towhee" (see next account).

Spotted/Eastern (Rufous-sided) Towhee: There were a large number of towhees reported as this designation, mostly in the eastern half of the state as expected.

Descriptions covered the gamut of combinations of plumage and vocalizations. This designation is preferred for towhees in most of the east-central section of Nebraska, since without genetic studies, genotypes can rarely be determined in the field.

Eastern Towhee: One as far north as *Dixon* 5 Mar (EBr, LBr, BFH) was quite early and may have wintered nearby, and another at Wagon Train RA, *Lancaster* 23 Mar (TG) was early. The 18 at WP 8 May (MW) was a good count. Two were westerly at Rowe Sanctuary, *Buffalo* 26 Apr (CCh photo).

Yellow-breasted Chat: Reports in the southeast continue as this species appears to be regaining its former eastern range. One was recorded at Frank Shoemaker Marsh, *Lancaster* 21 May (KS, MW), another was at Table Rock WMA, *Pawnee* 21 May (JSS) through the period (m. ob.), and one was in *Platte* 25 May (MN). Marking the east edge of the expected migration corridor were singles in *Knox* 21 May (MB), *Sherman* 17 May (JN), and *Harlan* 22 May (SP).

Yellow-headed Blackbird: Routine reports.

Bobolink: Routine reports.

Eastern Meadowlark: Routine reports.

Western Meadowlark: Routine reports.

Orchard Oriole: The 30+ at MWCW 21 May (MUs) was a good count.

Bullock's Oriole: Amazing was a male in the Colin Daro yard in *Sarpy* 9-12 May; coincidentally, the Daro family hosted Nebraska's only confirmed Hooded Oriole in 2013 in Garrison, *Butler*. Also east of the Panhandle, where rare but still not as surprising, were single males in *Lincoln* 5 May (BE photo) and in *Keith* 5 May (JO) and 24 May (JN). One at Metcalf WMA, *Sheridan* 15 May (TSc) was a bit east of the expected Pine Ridge range. A male in *Scotts Bluff* 1 May (KD) was early.

Bullock's x Baltimore Oriole (hybrid): There were six reports 8-29 May involving about 10 birds, east to *Keith* and *Perkins* (m. ob.). Most of these are probably introgressants.

Bullock's/Baltimore Oriole: There were eight reports 9-30 May involving nine birds, all but one in the west (m. ob.).

Baltimore Oriole: Arrival was generally early, first reported one in *Hall* 22 Apr (RF); singles in *Lincoln* 4 May (VC), Valentine, *Cherry* 6 May (JED) and *Dawes* 9 May (EG) were early at those locations.

Red-winged Blackbird: Routine reports.

Brown-headed Cowbird: Arrival was generally early across the state; one was in *Pierce* 4 Mar (JTh), one in *Buffalo* 7 Mar (WF), and one in *Kimball* 5 Apr (SMl).

Rusty Blackbird: Near the west edge of the migration corridor was an unusually large flock of 30 in *Lincoln* 4 Mar (BE photos) and two in *Buffalo* 8 Mar (CPa).

Brewer's Blackbird: The 186 in *Banner* 2 May (TL, KMD) was a good count.

Common Grackle: The 3000 at MWCW 30 Mar (MW) was a good count/estimate.

Great-tailed Grackle: The 250 in *Lincoln* 29 Mar (BE) was a good count.

Ovenbird: Routine reports.

Worm-eating Warbler: Less than annual, there was one record of one at WP 18 May (DL photo, RS, LE). It was not located subsequently.

Louisiana Waterthrush: Sightings of singles at PSP 16-23 May were on a "traditional territory" (JJ, BFH, JP, PT photo). Elsewhere, reports were of up to three from expected locations in *Washington, Douglas, Sarpy, Cass, Lancaster, Nemaha*, and *Richardson* beginning 4 Apr (m. ob.).

Northern Waterthrush: Routine reports.

Golden-winged Warbler: Westerly were one in York, *York* 19 May (JTu photo) and a surprising four in Norfolk, *Madison* 18 May (EBr, LBr, MB). Numbers reported continue to increase; prior to this year best spring totals were 29 in 2016 and 27 in 2018, but this year there were a remarkable 45 or so individuals at 23+ locations during the period.

Golden-winged x Blue-winged ("Brewster's") Warbler: Surprisingly, two were reported, one considered to be a true F1 hybrid in *Madison* 18 May (MB photos) and the other an F2 introgressant in *Sarpy* 21 May (PS photo, see also photo in March 2020 NBR, p. 21). These are the 4th and 5th records for Nebraska.

Blue-winged Warbler: Perhaps not surprisingly, since Golden-winged Warblers are dominating the western range of Blue-winged Warbler in Manitoba and given the large number of Golden-wingeds reported this spring, no Blue-wingeds were reported. Normally rare but annual in eastern Nebraska, expected dates are mostly in May.

Black-and-white Warbler: Routine reports.

Prothonotary Warbler: There were three reports. Two were in a known breeding location in FF 17 May (BWe, m. ob.), but unexpected were singles in a Papillion, *Sarpy* yard 14 May (PS, MC photo) and near Lyons, *Burt* 13-17 May (PT photo).

Tennessee Warbler: Rare in the Panhandle, there were three reports, singles on Hackberry Road, *Banner* 13 May (TL photos), at Gordon, *Sheridan* 14 and 17 May (D&MW), and at Chadron Creek Ranch WMA, *Dawes* 24 May (JN).

Orange-crowned Warbler: Routine reports.

Nashville Warbler: Record one-person counts were the 18 at WP 8 May (MW) and 13 at ICSP 11 May (JSS). Rare in the Panhandle, one was at Gordon, *Sheridan* 8 May (D&MW).

Connecticut Warbler: There were four reports, more than usual. Singles were at WP 16 May (MW photo), PL 19 May (MW photo), Wyuka Cemetery, *Lancaster* 22 May (SBr, OD), and at PSP 23 May (BFH, JP).

MacGillivray's Warbler: Routine reports.

Mourning Warbler: Only the 7th Panhandle record was one at OR 15 May (SMl). Another was westerly in *Brown* 17 May (JCo). A good tally was the three in *Pierce* 23 May (D&JP).

Kentucky Warbler: The eight at ICSP 7 May (JR, JL) was a good count.

Common Yellowthroat: The 59 at OR 21 May (SMl) was a good tally.

Hooded Warbler: Reports of this species have increased in recent years. This spring there were four. Three were photographed: single males at WP 16 May (DL, m. ob.), in Omaha, *Douglas* 19 May (JR, JL), and westerly in *Buffalo* 25 May (KM). A female was "clearly seen" at ICSP 17 May (JT).

American Redstart: An excellent count was the 70 at FF 21 May (SMa).

Cape May Warbler: A male in *Clay* 7 May (SBr, JGJ, photo) was westerly. There were six additional reports, all in Missouri River counties 11-21 May (m. ob.).

Cerulean Warbler: The only report was of a northerly bird at PSP 24 May (BFH, m. ob., photo). There had not been any reports for several years from northeast Nebraska (BFH), nor any accepted reports from the southeast since 2016.

Northern Parula: Only the 23rd Panhandle record was one at OR 15 May (SMl), while westerly was one at Mullen, *Hooker* 22 May (DS).

Magnolia Warbler: There was a notable fallout 22-23 May in *Lancaster* and *Sarpy* Cos, with 6-7 reported at each of four locations (m. ob.) and as many as 15 estimated at another, although that tally was considered inconclusive (eBird.org). Only the 22nd Panhandle record was one in *Deuel* 24 May (JN), while westerly was one at CR, *Loup* 16 May (CW).

Bay-breasted Warbler: Generally rare in spring although less so in recent years, the total of 20 reported is highest on record for a spring season. Only the 4th Panhandle record was of one in Gordon, *Sheridan* 25 May (D&MW), and westerly was one in *Greeley* 17 May (JN photo).

Blackburnian Warbler: Westerly was one in *Webster* 23 May (MP).

Yellow Warbler: Routine reports.

Chestnut-sided Warbler: The 20th Panhandle report was of one at Gilbert-Baker WMA, *Sioux* 28 May (SMl photo). Westerly were singles in *Buffalo* 15 May (AF) and *Sherman* 17 May (JN).

Blackpoll Warbler: Routine reports.

Palm Warbler: One in *Washington* 11 Apr (AWi) was 4th-earliest on record. Only the 13th and 14th Panhandle records were 1-2 at Winship Park, Gordon, *Sheridan* 8-11 May (D&MW photo) and one at White River Road, *Sioux* 6 May (TL, KMD).

Yellow-rumped (Myrtle) Warbler: Routine reports.

Yellow-rumped (Audubon's) Warbler: The 11 at Gering Cemetery, *Scotts Bluff* 4 May (KMD) was a good count. Intergrades with "Myrtle" Warbler are not uncommon; three were reported in the Panhandle 1-15 May (TL, KMD, SMl) and one was easterly in *Lancaster* 25 Apr (JGJ).

Yellow-throated Warbler: Westerly was one in *Jefferson* 13 May (SP, recording). Almost all other reports were from FF beginning 14 Apr (KH, m. ob.), except for singles in Omaha, *Douglas* 19 May (JR) and near Bennington, *Douglas* 21 May (JR, JL).

Black-throated Green Warbler: Routine reports.

Canada Warbler: About 27 individuals were reported, about twice the previous best spring tally. Counts of three in *Lancaster* at both Wyuka Cemetery 22 May and UNL East Campus 23 May (JGJ) were good for this species.

Wilson's Warbler: Routine reports.

Summer Tanager: One in *Douglas* 22 Apr (JWH, RH photo) was earliest on record by one day. The 13th Panhandle record was one at Gering Cemetery, *Scotts Bluff* 21 May (KMD, TL), while westerly were one at Valentine, *Cherry* 7 May (GW) and two at Cottonmill Park, *Buffalo* 5-6 May (AF, JN).

Scarlet Tanager: Westerly were a male in *Perkins* 21-23 May (MNi photo) and two at Pine Glen WMA, *Brown* 29 May (JCo), the latter at the west edge of the Niobrara River Valley breeding range.

Western Tanager: One at Harrisburg, *Banner* 2 May (TL, KMD, photo) tied for earliest on record. Not unexpected in the east, adding to the previous 15 records were three more: singles in Norfolk, *Madison* 11-13 May (DH, MB), at FF 13 May (MC, BW, KH), and in Omaha 14-15 May (JR, m. ob.).

Northern Cardinal: Excellent tallies were the 100 at WP 21 May (LE), 50 at Wagon Train RA, *Lancaster* 23 Mar (TG), and 50 at BOL 24 Mar (TG). Numbers continue to increase slowly in the western North Platte River Valley; veteran observer Alice Kenitz noted in *Scotts Bluff* "They continue to surprise me with the frequency of reports". Away from the North Platte River Valley, there were only two reports outside the expected summer range; a continuing bird in Gordon, *Sheridan*, was sighted 20 Mar (D&MW), and one was in *Hooker* 21 May (DS).

Rose-breasted Grosbeak: Arrival was generally early, first reports at the earliest expected dates. Rare in the Panhandle, there were six reports 11-21 May (m. ob.), only one photographed, which showed some Black-headed Grosbeak introgression, and two with identification details.

Black-headed Grosbeak: Easternmost was one in *Platte* 31 May (JSS).

Blue Grosbeak: Routine reports.

Lazuli Bunting: The occurrences in the east in spring continue to increase significantly; this spring there were an amazing 11 reports 2-25 May, all of singles (m. ob.) but for one report of two birds in Elmwood, *Cass* 3-4 May (CNK).

Lazuli x Indigo Bunting (hybrid): The only reports were from the east: a common hybrid type resembling an Indigo Bunting but with a white belly was at Table Rock WMA, *Pawnee* 31 May (BP), a mostly Indigo male introgressant "mottled with white" was at WP 10 May (LE), and a female resembling an Indigo Bunting but with one of its wing bars white was in Omaha, *Douglas* 17 May (fide D&JP, see photo in March 2020 NBR, p. 23).

Indigo Bunting: Reports were fewer westward as expected, including five from the Panhandle, where generally rare in spring but increasing as the hybrid zone gradually shifts westward. The five reports were scattered and totaled six birds 22-30 May (m. ob.).

Painted Bunting: The only report was likely a female or young male of this species: an "effervescent green" bird, not a hummingbird, was at Brownville, *Nemaha* 15 May (GP). This species breeds in northeastern Kansas and should be expected in summer in southeastern Nebraska.

Dickcissel: Routine reports.

WINDOW STRIKE BIRD MORTALITY ON THE UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA – LINCOLN CITY CAMPUS

By Thomas E. Labedz, University of Nebraska State Museum

INTRODUCTION

On May 25, 1915, in Lincoln, Lancaster County, Nebraska, a Gray-cheeked Thrush was "killed by flying against the library building on city campus" and was found by Robert H. Wolcott and prepared as a scientific study skin by Leroy M. Gates. This thrush is now ZM-6674 in the University of Nebraska State Museum (UNSM) Zoology collections. Birds are typically killed at low level buildings by flying into windows. This thrush is the first documented window strike death for what is now the University of Nebraska – Lincoln city campus. Based upon the UNSM bird collections I report on the last 100+ years (1915 through Dec 2019) of window strike bird mortalities on the city campus (especially 1985-2019). There were a total of 980 specimens of 87 species from 39 separate buildings or building complexes.

STUDY AREA and METHODS

The University of Nebraska State Museum (UNSM) Division of Zoology collections database was examined for avian specimens salvaged from city campus and whose label data indicated they had died, or very likely died, as a result of striking a window. For the purposes of this project the city campus was defined as being bounded on the east by Antelope Valley Parkway, the south by 'Q' Street, the west by 10th Street and what is now Interstate 180, and on the north by what is now Salt Creek Roadway and the approximate location of 'X' Street. Only specimens salvaged from university-related buildings within those boundaries were included. The campus has changed markedly over the past 100 years. In 1915 it was only beginning to expand beyond the original four city blocks from 10th to 12th Streets and 'R' to 'T' Streets. Some specimens had a street address recorded and when that could be determined to be a university building, it was included. Building, or building complexes, are recorded in the Appendix using the current name of the building. If questions arose from the database concerning the specimen, the specimen's original label was consulted.

Recording cause of death of specimens deposited at UNSM prior to my arrival on campus in 1985 was subject to the discretion of my predecessors. No attempt was made to re-interpret their wording on labels. Undoubtedly some specimens from city campus resulted from window strikes but were not noted as such, and not included herein. And I am unaware of any attempts to survey window strikes on campus prior to 1985. Since 1985 the cause of death has been recorded on specimen labels when known. During a period from 1992 to 1995 (approximately 3.5 years) I made regular walking trips around city campus during migration periods of mid-April to mid-June

and mid-September to mid-November specifically in search of window strike mortalities for UNSM (Labedz 1997).

Not all mortalities were saved and deposited at the museum. The species and numbers listed herein represent an absolute minimum number of birds killed by windows on this campus. Specimens unidentifiable due to decomposition or partial scavenging, or otherwise unsuitable for museum preservation, were retrieved but discarded to dissuade scavengers. Over the years it was noted that some specimens were being removed by mammalian scavengers that had also learned which windows produced mortality. Scavengers noted by the author include: dog, cat, raccoon, Virginia opossum, red fox, and fox squirrel. Some work has been done to compensate for scavengers in reporting mortality rates at windows (Bracey et al. 2016) but these processes were not applied here. Some building and landscape services personnel were also noticed removing window strikes to keep the buildings attractive. Personal time constraints sometimes meant that not all buildings were visited on a particular day, or even visited regularly during a particular season. There was no record of effort on my part to search campus for window strike mortality. Because this was primarily a way to grow museum research collections and train students, there was no detailed examination of buildings not known to cause mortality (control group). Since 1995, examination of campus windows for dead birds has been irregular at best; sometimes a whole year (e.g., 2017) would go by with no window strike birds deposited in the collections. Searches for window strike mortalities outside passerine migration periods have been intermittent to non-existent and relied upon the fatality being noticed by others and brought to my attention.

RESULTS

Museum records from the initial specimen mentioned above (ZM-6674) in 1915 through all of 2019 indicate 980 specimens entering the UNSM collections resulting from window collisions at 39 separate buildings. Only 19 of these records can be attributed to the period prior to 1985. Many of those 19 do not list a specific building. A smaller subset (3.5 years, Jan. 1992 - Jul. 1995) was examined in a general education publication (Labedz 1997). This is more realistically a 35-year summary (1985-2019). Buildings listed herein which were present on city campus prior to 1985 were very likely causing mortality similar to that reported post-1985, but very few specimens were retained or labeled as such. Summarized in Table 1 are the numbers of each species from each building. Those where a building was not specified are in the column labeled "Building Unknown".

Examination of Table 1 shows three buildings (approximately 7.7% of the buildings listed) accounting for over 50% of the mortality: Cather-Pound-Neihardt (CPN) Dining Link (23.98%), Sheldon Art Gallery (17.04%), and Oldfather Hall (15.20%). Further examination of Table 1 shows just nine species accounting for nearly 50% of the mortality: Lincoln's Sparrow (8.78%), Orange-crowned Warbler (6.33%), White-throated Sparrow (6.22%), Dark-eyed Junco (5.71%), Nashville

Warbler (3.98%), American Robin (3.88%), Swainson's Thrush (3.88%), Clay-colored Sparrow (3.78%), and Common Yellowthroat (3.67%).

Figure 1 plots the number of specimens based on the month they died at windows. The total number represented is 979 because one specimen was listed with only a year (no month or day) indicated on the label. It is easy to see the bi-modal distribution of fatalities corresponding to spring and fall passerine migration. There were 291 deaths in May (29.72%) and 271 in October (27.68%), accounting for over 50% of all deaths. Adding the preceding months, April with 87 deaths (8.89%) and September with 183 (18.69%), shows that the 4-month migration period accounts for 85% of the deaths.

DISCUSSION

Recently, there has been documentation of large declines in North American bird populations (Rosenberg et al. 2019). It has been well known for many years that birds and windows do not interact well (Nuttall 1832:88, Lucas 1881) and window-bird interactions have been included in several summary works on human-caused avian mortality in the United States (Loss et al. 2014) and Canada (Machtans et al. 2013). These figures are staggering with total building-related mortality of 100 million to 1 billion birds in the United States per year (Loss et al. 2014) and an additional 16.1 to 42.2 million in Canada (Machtans et al. 2013). In these studies mortality is subdivided based upon the type of building: high rise, low rise (which best fits the UNL campus), and residential. Low rise buildings estimated to cause 62.2 to 664.4 million fatalities per year (95% confidence interval) for the US and a mean of 2.4 million per year in Canada. Machtans et al. (2013) goes a step farther and ranks low rise buildings as to the likelihood of causing mortality: least likely, somewhat likely, and most likely. The 'most likely' category includes office, education, and health care structures. The UNL campus would come under this 'most likely' category, and it is hoped that this report of fatalities will be used to better quantify future estimates and hopefully lessen future mortality.

It is unfortunate I did not plan or execute some sort of organized methodology when surveying windows and salvaging these birds for the museum. My not doing so prevents detailed or statistical comparison to other works where such planning was incorporated. Comparisons herein to those studies can only be made at superficial levels.

Three published works document bird deaths at windows on university campuses in Midwestern states. Two of which pertain to three campuses in a nearly north-south line near the Mississippi River in Illinois (Hager et al. 2008) and Wisconsin (Schoefernacker et al. 2016). A third pertains to an urban campus along Lake Erie in Cleveland, Ohio (Borden et al. 2010).

Table 1. Window strike mortality list of species and buildings on the University of Nebraska - Lincoln city campus: 1915 - 2019.

Common Name	Total	% Total	Building Unknown	Architecture Hall	Brace-Behlen Hall	Cather-Pound-Neihardt Link	Hawks Hall	Love Library - Adelle Commons	Manter Hall	Memorial Stadium	Memorial Union	Nebraska Hall - Scott Eng. Link	Oldfather Hall	Sheldon Art Gallery	Other Buildings *
Rock Pigeon**	2	0.20			2										
Eurasian Collared-Dove**	1	0.10												1	
Mourning Dove	17	1.73	1	1							4		3	6	2
Black-billed Cuckoo	1	0.10												1	
Common Nighthawk	2	0.20												2	
Chimney Swift	2	0.20	1	1											
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	2	0.20			1			1							
American Woodcock	3	0.31	1							1					1
Sharp-shinned Hawk	1	0.10										1			
Red-tailed Hawk**	1	0.10												1	
Belted Kingfisher	2	0.20			1						1				
Red-headed Woodpecker	1	0.10	1												
Red-bellied Woodpecker**	1	0.10				1									
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	3	0.31												1	2
Northern Flicker	5	0.51					1				1			2	1
Willow / Alder Flycatcher	14	1.43	1			7				1	1		3	1	
Least Flycatcher	4	0.41						1					1	1	1
Blue-headed Vireo	2	0.20		1								1			
Warbling Vireo	5	0.51	2			1							1		1
Red-eyed Vireo	12	1.22	1	1		6						2		1	1
Blue Jay**	5	0.51	1			4									
Barn Swallow	1	0.10										1			
Black-capped Chickadee**	1	0.10										1			
Tufted Titmouse	1	0.10											1		

Table 1. Window strike mortality list of species and buildings, continued.

Common Name	Total	% Total	Building Unknown	Architecture Hall	Brace-Behlen Hall	Cather-Pound-Neihardt Link	Hawks Hall	Love Library - Adelle Commons	Manter Hall	Memorial Stadium	Memorial Union	Nebraska Hall - Scott Eng. Link	Oldfather Hall	Sheldon Art Gallery	Other Buildings *
Red-breasted Nuthatch	3	0.31			1							1	1		
White-breasted Nuthatch**	1	0.10							1						
Brown Creeper	17	1.73	2			4	3		1				5		2
House Wren	28	2.86	3		2	1	1			4			6	10	1
Sedge Wren	2	0.20												1	1
Marsh Wren	5	0.51					1						1	1	2
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	12	1.22	1	1	1	3	1					1	3	1	
Veery	2	0.20						1					1		
Gray-cheeked Thrush	3	0.31	1	1								1			
Swainson's Thrush	38	3.88	3	1		12	1	2	1		1	6	3	7	1
Hermit Thrush	9	0.92	1	3		1	1		1	1				1	
Wood Thrush	1	0.10										1			
American Robin	38	3.88	2	1		15		3				1		11	5
Gray Catbird	25	2.55	5	2	1	11		1				1	1	2	1
Brown Thrasher	25	2.55	1	1	1	6					1		7	8	
European Starling**	5	0.51				4				1					
Cedar Waxwing	1	0.10										1			
House Sparrow**	3	0.31				2									1
Pine Siskin	6	0.61		1		2			1				2		
American Goldfinch	4	0.41				1								2	1
Grasshopper Sparrow	10	1.02		1			4			1			2	2	
Chipping Sparrow	5	0.51				1								3	1
Clay-colored Sparrow	37	3.78	9		1	3				5	2		8	7	2
Field Sparrow	8	0.82				2	1			2			1	2	

Table 1. Window strike mortality list of species and buildings, continued.

Common Name	Total	% Total	Building Unknown	Architecture Hall	Brace-Behlen Hall	Cather-Pound-Neihardt Link	Hawks Hall	Love Library - Adelle Commons	Manter Hall	Memorial Stadium	Memorial Union	Nebraska Hall - Scott Eng. Link	Oldfather Hall	Sheldon Art Gallery	Other Buildings *
Fox Sparrow	5	0.51	1			1				2				1	
Dark-eyed Junco	56	5.71	4	4		24				5		4	4	10	1
White-crowned Sparrow	3	0.31											2	1	
Harris's Sparrow	7	0.71				5							1	1	
White-throated Sparrow	61	6.22	9	1	1	15		4	2	1		3	9	16	
LeConte's Sparrow	1	0.10													1
Song Sparrow	26	2.65	3				1	2	1	2			8	7	2
Lincoln's Sparrow	86	8.78	6	2	1	2	5	10	1	9		4	17	21	8
Swamp Sparrow	16	1.63		1			2	1	1	1			1	5	4
Spotted Towhee	4	0.41										1	1	2	
Hybrid Eastern/Spotted Towhee	1	0.10				1									
Yellow-breasted Chat	2	0.20								1				1	
Baltimore Oriole	1	0.10		1											
Common Grackle	28	2.86	1	1		22							2	2	
Ovenbird	23	2.35		3		1		2	2	2	2	1	4	4	2
Northern Waterthrush	8	0.82		1			1		1	2		3			
Golden-winged Warbler	1	0.10				1									
Black-and-white Warbler	13	1.33	1			7			1	2			1	1	
Tennessee Warbler	25	2.55	1	1		12	1					4	3	3	
Orange-crowned Warbler	62	6.33	3	6	1	25	2			1		3	16	3	2
Nashville Warbler	39	3.98	2	5		5	1		2	5	1	5	11	1	1
MacGillivray's Warbler	1	0.10				1									
Mourning Warbler	18	1.84	2	2		1	1	2	2	1		1	3	2	1
Common Yellowthroat	36	3.67	3	2	2	4	3	5	1	3	1	1	2	5	4
American Redstart	5	0.51	1			3						1			

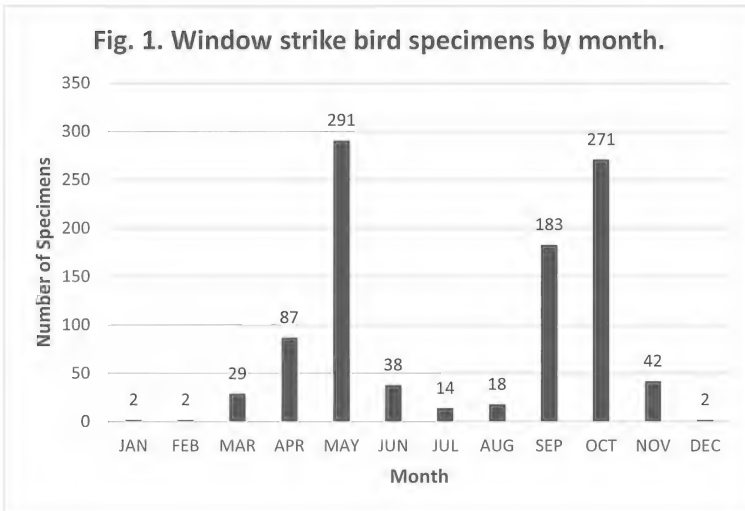
Table 1. Window strike mortality list of species and buildings, continued.

Common Name	Total	% Total	Building Unknown	Architecture Hall	Brace-Behlen Hall	Cather-Pound-Neihardt Link	Hawks Hall	Love Library - Adelle Commons	Manter Hall	Memorial Stadium	Memorial Union	Nebraska Hall - Scott Eng. Link	Oldfather Hall	Sheldon Art Gallery	Other Buildings *
Cape May Warbler	2	0.20		2											
Magnolia Warbler	3	0.31				1	1				1				
Bay-breasted Warbler	1	0.10				1									
Yellow Warbler	11	1.12	1	3		2		1					2	1	1
Chestnut-sided Warbler	2	0.20		1										1	
Blackpoll Warbler	3	0.31		1								1		1	
Black-throated Blue Warbler	1	0.10													1
Yellow-rumped Warbler	6	0.61		1		2							1	1	1
Black-throated Green Warbler	1	0.10											1		
Canada Warbler	4	0.41	1									1	1		1
Wilson's Warbler	10	1.02		1		3	2			1			3		
Northern Cardinal**	8	0.82		1		2				1		1	1	1	1
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	18	1.84	1		1	6						5	4	1	
Indigo Bunting	5	0.51		2		1						1	1		
87 species Total	980	100.00	77	58	17	235	34	36	19	55	16	59	149	167	58
% Total			7.86	5.92	1.73	23.98	3.47	3.67	1.94	5.61	1.63	6.02	15.20	17.04	5.92

* Other Buildings: 17th & R Street Parking Garage, 501 Building, Andrews Hall, Avery Hall, Beadle Center, Burnett Hall, Carson Media Arts Center, Cather Dining, Coliseum, Hamilton Hall, Jorgensen Hall-Nanoscience Center, Kimball Hall, Knoll Residence Hall, Lied Center, Lutheran Student Center, Mabel Lee Hall, Morrill Hall, Nebraska Hall, Othmer Hall, Pound Hall (formerly CBA), Sapp Recreation Center, Scott Engineering, Selleck Hall, Stadium Drive Parking Garage, Student Health Center, University Health Center-College of Nursing, Westbrook Music Building, Wick Alumni Center.

** Considered by author to be resident species on campus.

Hager et al. (2008) reports 215 fatalities consisting of 48 species over four years at the one building surveyed on the Augustana College campus. That study also reports 142 fatalities of 37 species over 23 months at 4 buildings at Principia College and an additional 58 fatalities including an additional four species at buildings not included in the study. In total Hager et al. (2008) reports 415 kills of 69 species in their study. Schoefernacker et al. (2016) very systematically surveyed for window strikes at 6 buildings at the University of Wisconsin – Platteville campus for 21 days during fall migration finding 11 dead birds of 7 species plus one unknown species (feather pile). Different was the Borden et al. (2010) report from the urban campus of Cleveland State University in downtown Cleveland near the shore of Lake Erie. This 12 month study (137 sample days) found 271 fatalities of 50 species. Herein I report 980 fatalities of 78 species.



Studies operating through several seasons (Hager et al. 2008, Borden et al. 2010) show a very strong trend of fatalities occurring primarily in spring and fall migration. This is not unexpected. Borden et al. (2010) describes 90% of their reported kills during the spring and fall migration period as "a non-random distribution of deaths". Deaths/month figures shown in Hager et al. (2008) and Borden et al. (2010) are very similar to that reported in Figure 1 here. Different is that Borden et al. (2010) reports 3.7 times as many deaths in autumn and attribute this as being consistent with expected migration numbers due to augmentation with immatures resulting from summer reproduction. Though fall migration shows more deaths than spring on the Lincoln campus (Figure 1) it is not as great as on the Cleveland campus (Borden et al. 2010). Similarly the numbers for the Augustana and Principia College campuses are

greater in the fall (Hager et al. 2008) but not as great as Cleveland. This might be due to the impact of Cleveland campus being on the shore of Lake Erie while Augustana, Principia, and Lincoln campuses have no such large geographic influence nearby.

In common with other campus studies is the predominance of North American and neotropical migrant species as compared to the resident species. Schoefernaker et al. (2016) in their 21-day study in Wisconsin report only one resident, a House Sparrow, among the 10 identifiable birds. This represents 10% of individuals and 14.28% of species. Borden et al. (2010) reports 2.61% of individuals and 10% of 50 species as resident. Hager et al. (2008) reports 8.84% of the individuals and 16.95% of 59 species as resident. This study reports 2.86% of individuals and 12.82% of species as resident (Table 1). It should be noted that in this study some species which might otherwise be classified as 'resident' (e.g., Tufted Titmouse) are not classified as such because no resident populations existed nearby when the window strike occurred. Many of the North American and neotropical migrants are nighttime migrants. Arnold and Zink (2011) estimated that nighttime migrants are 10.9 times as likely to have collisions. It has been hypothesized that sleep deprivation due to night migration may play a role in the susceptibility of certain species (Nichols et al. 2018). Additionally migrant birds stopping to rest and refuel may spend more time in an area than previously thought (Schaub et al. 2001) and increase the chances of interactions with glass.

As previously stated Cather-Pound-Neihardt (CPN) Dining Link, Sheldon Art Gallery, and Oldfather Hall account for over 50% of the mortality. CPN was demolished and is no longer a factor. Oldfather has received some modification (external window decals and vegetation removal) that seem to have reduced mortality. Sheldon has remained unchanged and continues to kill. In addition there are several buildings with relatively high kill percentages that deserve scrutiny and perhaps modification. Architecture Hall (5.92% of kills), in its current configuration for over 40 years, has the potential to maintain this impact level. Memorial Stadium (5.61% of kills) has been in its current arrangement since 1999 on the west side and 2012 on the east side. Very little vegetative habitat exists near this building and thus little beside exterior decals on window might reduce the mortality it causes. Hawks Hall has only been present for 3 years and already has accounted for 3.47% of bird deaths. The Nebraska Hall Link to Scott Engineering was in place for 35 years before demolition and accounted for 6.02% of the deaths reported herein. The architectural drawings of the replacement link structure give the impression that this mortality level will not go down. A building currently causing minimal mortality (e.g., 501 Building) may see an increase should there be changes in the windows or landscaping. Valenziano (unpublished report 2014) in a spatial analysis utilizing many of these same data (up to 2014) in looking for hotspot relationships stated "university campuses change greatly in design and structure over and [*sic*] number of years, it would be interesting to see how these changes may adjust the areas of clustering on campus."

Commonly reported, but unrelated to fatal window strikes, is the situation of a bird constantly flying against windows from close range. Rather, a bird (usually

male, but sometimes female) defending its territory against a perceived intruder, their reflection in the glass. While sometimes bloodied from constant impacts, the individual rarely gets enough momentum for a fatal collision. Also commonly reported is that a bird dies of a "broken neck" when it fatally impacts glass. In the examination of the specimens reported herein, and of many other window strike fatalities not from campus, this author has never seen a broken neck. A bird neck is long, very flexible, and usually held in a shortened, curved position during flight. Upon relaxation, as in death, the neck appears longer and very mobile giving the impression of being broken. I have seen numerous skull, shoulder, and sternal fractures, but never a cervical fracture. The carcasses of most specimens were prepared as skeletons and such fractures would be evident. They are not. The usual cause of death is likely a cranial hematoma (bleeding on the brain) or other trauma from impact (Veltri and Klem 2005).

It is not my intent to have this paper become a catchall source of information on preventing bird strikes at windows, a portion of which I covered previously (Labedz 1997). There are several resources on this topic and building design are easily better than anything I could present here (Brown and Caputo 2007, City of Toronto 2007, Klem 2009, Klem et al. 2009, American Bird Conservancy website).

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APPENDIX: BUILDING DESCRIPTIONS

The following paragraphs describe the 39 buildings at which birds are known to strike windows and for which specimens are deposited at UNSM. The alphabetical

list has the current name of the building, GPS coordinate obtained from Google Earth, the approximate time period the building has been in existence, and some comments on why the building has killed birds. To determine the age of some buildings I utilized the web site https://historicbuildings.unl.edu/.

17th & R Street Parking Garage (40.8166, -96.6963), 2004 – Present. Built in approximately 2004, this, like many modern parking structures, has glass-enclosed stairwells on some corners. Not a significant cause of mortality, but habitat plantings near any building can cause this to change.

501 Building (40.8184, -96.7072). I was unable to find a construction date but this single-story brick building still in use. It is not a significant cause of mortality.

Andrews Hall (40.8193, -96.7019), 1928 – Present. An older three-story brick and stone building with relatively small windows and doors. Not a significant cause of mortality.

Architecture Hall (40.8173, -96.7064), 1978 – Present. [Old library (stone) 1892, link built in 1978]. The windows of the original stone building probably did not have a great impact on birds. Replacement windows are often more reflective and some fatalities have been noted. The three-story link built in 1978 has had the largest impact. It is constructed nearly entirely of moderately reflective glass panels with recessed alcoves on all four corners of the attachment to the original buildings. While most fatalities here are direct impact due to reflections, these recessed alcoves of glass create a very confusing maze of reflections sometimes entrapping birds that have been found fluttering in exhaustion near the base.

Avery Hall (40.8194, -96.7044), 1919 – Present. Has not been a significant cause of mortality due to small windows and very little nearby habitat, but any building with windows has potential.

Beadle Center (40.8197, -96.6934). 1995 – Present. While only one specimen is known from this building, the low number might be due to its not being checked very often. The glass entryway on the west side and greenhouses have a higher potential than evidence indicates.

Brace-Behlen Hall (40.8181, -96.7066), Brace 1905 – Present, Behlen and Brace-Behlen Link 1965 – Present. The shaded north side of the link has large glass panels that reflect surrounding habitat. This was a continual cause of mortality until an external building overhaul was done in about 2017. Construction of a glass-enclosed, subway-style stairwell entrance (itself a hazard) a few years earlier is believed by this author to have altered the habitat enough to reduce bird strikes against the link windows. From prior to 1985 until at least 2010 there was large plastic replica of a Great Horned Owl strung up as a deterrent, but I don't think it had much effect.

Burnett Hall (40.8193, -96.7033), 1946 – Present. A brick, three story building with smaller windows. Most fatalities are associated with first floor windows and are likely cause by reflection of suitable habitat.

Carson Media Arts Center (40.8162, -96.7023), About 1988 – Present. Formerly known as the Nebraska Bookstore, this brick building in an urban setting was not much of an issue for bird mortalities until remodeled in 2018 with expansion of the windows.

Cather Dining (40.8186, -96.6958), 2017 – Present. A replacement for next building listed, Cather Dining incorporated large windows of moderately reflective glass on the two- and three-story front. This arrangement, with landscaping, is showing itself to be a fatal combination.

Cather-Pound-Neihardt Dining Link (40.8186, -96.6971), 1965 - 2018. Commonly referred to as "CPN dorm link" in museum records, this location references an east-west, second-story, clear glass-enclosed walkway link between buildings. A common name for it among students was "the window of death". Larger trees had grown on the north and south sides. Birds were apparently funneled into this area between taller buildings where this walkway was at the perfect height to be a lethal obstacle as they moved from tree to tree. Students and staff made efforts to curb this carnage but it was not resolved until demolition in 2018.

Coliseum (40.8212, -96.7027), 1925 – Present. This large brick building with small windows has not been a significant cause of mortality, but any building with windows has potential.

Hamilton Hall (40.8187, -96.7047), 1970 – Present. This very tall building does not have a large amount of glass on its exterior and has not been a significant cause of mortality, but the entrance doors on the west side have claimed some birds. A glass link between Hamilton Hall and Manter Hall at the fourth floor level has also not been a significant cause of mortality. I believe this link is too high and is above the average movement elevation (above tree height) of most susceptible birds.

Hawks Hall (College of Business) (40.8204, -96.7006), 2018 – Present. Only recently constructed, Hawks Hall is becoming a major disaster for migrating birds. Primarily sheathed in a moderately reflective glass, the south side is about four stories tall. This massive structure mirrors any surrounding habitat. The north and west sides also have large glass surfaces but so far do not appear as deadly. Opening to the west is a large interior courtyard that begins one story below ground level. This lower level is lined in glass and the upper floors of the courtyard have large windows. Although the courtyard is open to the west, this subsurface feature means that birds descending to the bottom may have difficulty seeing any way out except for that reflected in the glass.

Jorgensen Hall - Nanoscience Center (40.8224, -96.6985), 2010 – Present. Though modern, these structures have avoided large areas of glass sheathing, lack nearby habitat, and have not been a large source of avian mortality.

Kimball Hall (40.8168, -96.7050), 1969 – Present. Not a significant cause of mortality, but entrance doors and full-length foyer windows on the north side are glass that can be reflective in certain light conditions.

Knoll Residence Hall (40.8176, -96.6964), 2010 – Present. A four-story residence hall of brick with smaller windows and no large areas overly attractive to birds. However,

there are several recessed entrances that also serve as connections between building sections that have glass walkways that have been known to cause fatalities. This building has not been regularly surveyed for window strikes.

Lied Center (40.8166, -96.7045), 1991 – Present. Large brick structure with glass windows at ground level and on upper balconies on the northeast side. Only the ground level windows could be checked for mortality and even with nearby plantings this building does not seem a major cause of bird mortality.

Love Library (40.8185, -96.7026), 1943 – Present, North Library (now Adele Commons) and Library Link 1972 – Present. The original Love Library likely was not a significant cause of mortality due to small windows. The north library building and its upper story link to Love Library have been serious offenders. The link has four corners of glass at the second story level which causes mortality. The north library building is surrounded on the ground level by glass windows. Prior to remodeling in 2016 these were not much of an issue because white blinds on the inside usually negated reflective images of habitat. The remodel and rededication as the Adele Commons area in 2016 removed much of that and added a protruding clear glass entrance on the north side, which is killing birds regularly during migration.

Lutheran Student Center (40.8188, -96.6985), unknown construction date – 2019. Was not known to be a significant cause of bird mortality but was not regularly checked. This building is undergoing an extreme remodel at this time and could become a problem if large amounts of glass are used in façade design.

Mabel Lee Hall (40.8219, -96.7008), 1977 - 2020. Has not been a significant cause of mortality due to very small, recessed windows. The building is slated for demolition in 2020 with public design illustrations of the replacement building showing a large, three-story glass entrance area on the west side that could be trouble for migrating birds. The design of the other sides is not known to the author.

Manter Hall (40.8189, -96.7050), 1974 – Present. An atrium with interior vegetation on the ground level of the east side of the building exposed by glass to exterior environments may have been the cause of some bird mortality against these windows. From the outside the windows were reflective in certain light conditions and that may have been a larger cause of mortality. Luckily this side of Manter Hall is very close to Hamilton Hall and not a great attractor to birds. A renovation of first floor in 2014 removed the interior atrium gardens.

Memorial Stadium (40.8206, -96.7056), 1923 – Present. The stadium probably did not cause many avian fatalities until the remodeling and expansions of the past 25 years. These expansions, particularly on the west (1999) the east (2012) sides included large, tall glass panels which can reflect habitat. There is not much vegetated habitat near the stadium to be reflected in these windows, but it might be that with such a massive structure, the reflection of sky is perceived as an escape route for birds. In addition recessed, glass-lined alcoves near ground level on the east side also attract and kill birds. A second-story, glass-encased walkway from the stadium to another building to the north does not seem to be a significant cause of mortality, probably due to lack of appropriate bird habitat nearby.

Memorial Union (40.8179, -96.7005), 1938 – Present. Only the north side of the Union has been an issue with birds. This is where a large number of windows, reflective in certain light conditions, do sometimes create a fatal attraction to migrant birds. The presence of a large, ornamental water fountain immediately to the north also attracts birds to the area.

Morrill Hall (40.8199, -96.7018), 1927 – Present. Most fatalities are associated with first floor windows and are likely caused by reflection of suitable habitat. In 1988 a glass-enclosed, subway-style stairwell entrance was constructed on the south side of the building for student access to a lecture hall. This entrance structure has at times been a cause of mortality greater than Morrill Hall itself. However, landscaping shrub growth very near the windows, while attractive to birds, may actually be preventing mortalities by itself being the destination for birds rather than the reflection of habitat in the glass. And being so close to the glass, a bird in the vegetation likely does not build enough momentum to have fatal collision.

Nebraska Hall (40.8231, -96.6973), 1931 – Present. Built in several stages (3 floors, then 2 additional floors) this very large brick building was likely not a big factor in bird deaths due to small windows. With the possible exception of the large-windowed southwest stairwell, Nebraska Hall has small windows. Old single-pane windows were replaced with energy efficient, but more reflective, double-pane windows in 2002. Bird strikes occur at these smaller windows, perhaps for the same reason as Memorial Stadium, the reflected sky is seen as an escape. The 5-story glass-stairwell in the southwest corner has had numerous bird strikes that cannot be retrieved as they fall on a first floor roof.

Nebraska Hall Link to Scott Engineering (40.8225, -96.6978), 1985 - 2019. This second- and third-story link had moderately reflective glass on the east and west sides, and was open underneath. Reflections of large trees along 16th Street made for frequent window strikes on the west side. This link was demolished during the winter of 2019-2020, but a larger replacement is under construction with an architectural drawing indicating a glass facade. These drawings even illustrate the reflections of trees in the glass, promising future avian mortality.

Oldfather Hall (40.8197, -96.7035), 1970 – Present. This 10-story building itself is not a significant cause of mortality. However, second-story, glass-enclosed links on the north and south sides to adjacent Bessey and Burnett Halls have been an issue, especially on the north. The south link is over a paved drive and offers little in the way of habitat to attract birds. The north link had trees in the area and has contributed to the museum collections. Efforts years ago (1990s) by Jim Ducey got reflection-disruptive decals placed on the glass. This may have reduced mortality but the eventual loss of the trees was likely more effective.

Othmer Hall (40.8212, -96.6975), 2002 – Present. Othmer is joined on the north to Scott Engineering. Ground level glass panels and doors on the west side and associated landscape plantings have created a fatal mix. Large windows along a covered walkway on the south side do occasionally kill as well.

Pound Hall, formerly College of Business Administration (CBA) (40.8181, -96.7035), 1917 – Present. This older-style building was not a significant cause of mortality except after a remodel in the mid-1990s replaced north entrance doors with newer glass that can be reflective in certain light conditions.

Sapp Recreation Center (40.8220, -96.7021), 1989 – Present. Large glass windows on the east entrance have some potential, but overall this building is not a significant cause of mortality.

Scott Engineering (40.8219, -96.6976), 1972 – Present. This four-story brick building has not been the cause of much mortality due to the very limited number of windows. A full-height glass stairwell entrance on the west has had some bird strikes. A renovation project beginning in 2020 to construct a new link to Nebraska Hall appears in architectural drawings to extend a glass façade from the link to include parts of the west side of Scott Engineering, greatly increasing the chance of avian mortality.

Selleck Hall (40.8190, -96.6996), 1952 – Present. This residence hall with smallish windows has not been a significant cause of window strikes. Potential exceptions are large windows in the central cafeteria and second floor glass-enclosed walkways on either side of the west entrance.

Sheldon Art Gallery (40.8175, -96.7044), 1961 – Present. Large two-story plate glass windows on east and west sides allow light to the main gallery area and visibility through to the other side of the building. During brighter daylight hours this see-through feature appears as an uninterrupted passage. During dimmer daylight conditions when the building's interior is not lit, the glass panels reflect nearby habitat. This building continues to be a major source of bird fatalities.

Stadium Drive Parking Garage (40.8197, -96.7073), 1999 – Present. Like many modern parking structures this building has glass enclosed stairwells on corners. Not a significant cause of mortality, but habitat plantings near any building can cause this to change.

Student Health Center (40.8201, -96.6993), 1958 – Present. This building has small windows and has not been a significant cause of mortality, but any building with windows has potential.

University Health Center / College of Nursing (40.8182, -96.6932), 2018 – Present. Built to replace the above mentioned Student Health Center, large numbers of glass windows were incorporated in design of the facade. Current landscaping might limit the attractiveness to birds, but it is already producing fatalities.

Westbrook Music Building (40.8169, -96.7057), 1967 – Present. With one story above ground and few windows except on the north side, this building is not a significant hazard to birds.

Wick Alumni Center (40.8173, -96.6990), 1985 – Present. On the north side of this building is a large, second-story window of moderately reflective glass that faces an area of trees and landscaping. While the building overall is not a significant cause of mortality, this one window has produced specimens.

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Table of Contents

Spring Field Report, March - May 2020
by W. Ross Silcock 46

Window Strike Bird Mortality on the University
of Nebraska - Lincoln City Campus
by Thomas E. Labedz 75

Subscription and Organization Information 91